Castro on the rebound

New stores and streetscapes planned in time for holiday shoppers.

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Suing to become a diplomat

Gay, HIV-positive man, in exclusive interview, tells of his legal fight.



'Mother' courage SF Opera celebrates Susan B. Anthony. see Arts section



Vol. 33 · No. 37 · 11 September 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Wave of disability lawsuits hits Castro

by Cynthia Laird

A spate of lawsuits alleging several Castro businesses are inaccessible to the disabled have been filed in federal court by a West Sacramento man who has served hundreds of similar

who has served hundreds of similar suits throughout the state over the years, targeting everything from Northern California wineries to banks to department stores.

Several of the lawsuits were filed July 1 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District in San Francisco. They include suits filed against La Mediterranee on Noe Street, Atelier Studio on Market Street, Face It Salon on Market Street, and against the owner of the building housing Prism salon on Market Street. A suit has also been filed against Bauer Ware.

George Louie, a disabled man, who's executive director of Americans with Disabilities Advocates, is listed as a plaintiff on the lawsuits. Louie has

a plaintiff on the lawsuits. Louie has sued hundreds of businesses over the years, often settling cases out of court for several thousand dollars each. In a telephone interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Louie said his organization is a group of largely black disability rights activists and other people of color who want businesses to adhere to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, which became law in

We did not pick on the Castro "We did not pick on the Castro only," Louie said, adding similar lawsuits have been filed against businesses in Union Square and other parts of San Francisco. "We filed 90 lawsuits a few weeks ago."

But it's Louie's apparent mode of operation that has some attorneys, merchants, and even other disability rights leaders crying foul.

"These lawsuits against small busi-

rights leaders crying foul.

"These lawsuits against small businesses really don't work," Herb Levine, executive director of the Independent Living Resource Center, told the August 7 meeting of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. "Most disability rights activists are interested in access. We choose to frame trace businesses want customers and it as: businesses want customers, and customers want to shop."

But Levine acknowledged that one of the first steps is to get over stereotypes and noted that while some businesses go down "kicking and screaming," most businesses "are not like that." Levine also noted that if merchants settle suits filed against them but do nothing to make their businesses accessible, they're liable to be sued again. He also returnded MUMC nembers that the ADA has

be sted again. He also reminded MUMC members that the ADA has been the law of the land for 13 years. Louie told the B.A.R. that his operation is fairly basic. He said his organization has seven vehicles equipped with navigational equipped. page 19

Two years later, gays discuss impact of Sept. 1

by Zak Szymanski

he world was changed forever by the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. And almost instant

11, 2001. And almost instantly, the lives of many LGBT
people were changed as well.
From a drastic shift in the
political spectrum came
some symbolic gains for gays
and their partners, as well as
some increased obstacles. Two years later, the

effects of September 11 can still be felt as members of the LGBT community continue their fight for equality.



As emotions erupted, patriotism soared, and for the first time in a long time, gay Americans were included, by name, in the

call for national unity.

Within moments of the attacks, President Bush, long a proponent that "all crimes are hate crimes," was calling these particular crimes "hateful" and "acts of war," suddenly grasping the notion of premeditated violence



Mark Bingham

graphic.

Days after the attacks, the Reverend Jerry Falwell remarked during an interview on Pat Robertson's 700 club show that certain populations could be blamed for helping to foster a climate in which God stopped looking out for

"I really believe that the pagans and the abortionists and the fem-

inists and the gays and the lesbians who are



Father Mychal Judge

actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way, all of them who try to secularize America ... I point the thing in their face and say you helped this happen," Falwell said.

His comment, rather than earning him his typical conservative support caused many to just

ative support, caused many to in-stead turn their backs on the Christian right's unquestionably

divisive tactics.

After all, noted many prominent officials, including those believed to be

page 14

DOMA hearing heartens

by Bob Roehr

n oversight hearing on the Defense of Marriage Act, and implicitly, whether a constitutional amendment is necessary to prevent gays from marrying, concluded with gay rights advocates heartened and social conservatives at least mildly disap-

pointed. The Senate Subcom-mittee on the Constitution of the Judiciary Committee held the hearing on Thursday, Sep-

tember 4.

"I have long opposed government recognition of same-gender marriages, and this legislation [DOMA] is consistent with that position," said Subcommittee Chairman Senator John Cornyn (R-Teyrs), in his opening state-Texas) in his opening statement. "The question before us now is whether the popular and bipartisan legislation will remain the law of the land

as the people intend, or be overturned by activist courts." Those words pleased social conservatives, but Cornyn's tone – the coolness of a bu-

reaucrat, not the visceral fear and loathing that tinges the voices of many on the right in discussing gay marriage – surely must have left many of them wanting

more.
Cornyn's framing of the hearing—"Americans instinctively and laudably support two fundamental propositions: that every individual is worthy of respect, and that the traditional institution of marriage is worthy of protection"—indicated the balance that he brought to the prothat he brought to the proceedings. Five Democratic senators actively took on the far right witnesses.

Senator John Cornyn Vermont) set the tone for the Democrats when he reviewed the many

sing issues facing the country and said, "I wonder whether this issue really should de



Homophobe hits Big Apple

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-

INSIDE **BAR Talk** 40 19 Classifieds Lavender Tube 33 **Lesbian Notions** 8 7 Mailstrom Mister Marcus 38 **O**bituaries 17 Open Forum 9 Our Man Friday 26 Out There Out & About 36 Past Out 10 41 Personals Sports Complex 18

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Gay Marine gets jail time

by Zak Szymanski

penly gay Marine Stephen Funk was sentenced to six months in jail on Saturday, September 6, when a military jury in New Orleans found him guilty of unauthorized absence

of unauthorized absence.
Funk, 21, was stationed in San
Jose when his unit was called to
duty in February. Following his
growing opposition to war and
moral objection to killing, he went
AWOL, turning himself in as a conscientifus, objector, in April He has rescientious objector in April. He has since spoken out publicly against the war and the military, and is the

only one of 28 Marine conscientious objectors to face prosecution.

Protesting what they said was unusually harsh punishment in retaliation for Funk's public statements, about 60 activists gathered in the Castro last Thursday, September 4, the date that Funk's trial

The rally, sponsored by several groups including the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Not in Our Name, and Bay Area United Against War, featured a number of

"Funk didn't just say he didn't want to fight," said military veter-an Forrest Smith, "he said this war was wrong. He is being punished

Adam Richmond of BAUAW echoed that sentiment.



Supporters rally for Stephen Funk September 4 at Harvey Milk Plaza in

"The military is afraid there will be a second, a third, a thou-

will be a second, a third, a thou-sand Stephen Funks," he said. Additional speakers at San Francisco's really included Tina D'Elia of Community United Against Violence, the Reverend Penny Nixon of Metropolitan Community Church, and Howard Wallace of Pride at Work. Several Latino, Asian, and Filipino groups (Funk is part-Filipino) joined in (Funk is part-Filipino) joined in co-sponsoring the event. In addition to the rally in San Francisco, demonstrations in support of Funk were also held last week in Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle, and New Orleans.
Saturday's military jury decision

recommended that Funk be derecommended that Funk be de-moted from lance corporal to pri-vate, that his pay be docked by two-thirds while incarcerated, and that he receive a bad conduct discharge.

The jury did not find Funk guilty of the more serious charge guilty of the more serious charge of desertion, which could have landed Funk a year-long jail sen-tence. Nevertheless, Funk's attor-ney Steve Collier told reporters he plans to appeal the six-month sentence in favor of a term of 47 days, the amount of time Funk was absent.

Liz Highleyman contributed to

CA LGBT bills making progress and history

by Zak Szymanski

wo down, two to go," is how Boyce Hinman of the Lambda Letters Project

Governor Gray Davis signed the historic AB458 on Monday, September 8, effectively protect-ing foster children and caretakers in California from discrimination based on a variety of factors in-cluding sexual orientation, gen-

The bill, by Assemblywoman Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), also stipulates that foster parents and staff will receive information on the nondiscrimination requirement during training hours.
"This bill will ensure that at-

risk youth, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, are better protected while in Cal-ifornia's foster care system," said Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California. "This is

not a complicated or controversial issue: we have an obligation to protect our most vulnerable foster children from harassment toster children from narassment and discrimination. Equality Cal-ifornia commends Assembly-member Chu for her dedication and perseverance in passing this

important civil rights measure."

Of the four major pieces of LGBT legislation in the state Legislature this session, AB458 is the second to be signed into law by

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Gay postal worker files federal lawsuit for harassment

by Zak Szymanski

U.S. Postal Service worker who alleges he was harassed, threatened, and abused for a period of five years by his coworkers has filed a federal lawsuit to test the waters on federal protections for gave.

lawsuit to test the waters on federal alprotections for gays.

Chad Grumbling, who works in Modesto, claims that fellow postal workers chased him in a car threatening to kill him; dumped Fruit Loops cereal and Juicy Fruit gum in his work area; urinated in his locker; constantly called him "fudgepacker," "sissy," and "faggot"; repeatedly wrote on the bathroom wall: "Free blowjobs, 1-800-call-Chad"; left death threats on his answering machine; yelled "Fag alert" and "Queer in the john" when he entered the restroom; repeatedly left gay pornography in his work area; and mimed sex acts to taunt him at work.

Grumbling continues to be employed by the postal service, where he works as a distribution and window clerk.

and window clerk.

Grumbling alleges that his complaints to management did nothing, and in 1999, he was compelled to purchase a gun for his



Postal worker Chad Grumbling

safety. Management reportedly investigated Grumbling's purchase, found that he had properly registered the gun and taken safety classes, and did not discipline him.

After the Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission ruled
that Grumbling was not protected
under federal laws because they
do not specifically prohibit sexual
orientation harassment, Grumbling sued; the case was filed in
U.S. District Court in Fresno on
Thursday, September 4.

Although aware that federal law does not cover sexual orientation, Grumbling's attorneys are seeking a victory based on discrimination on the basis of sex, said Robert Lazo with the San Francisco-based Employment Lawyers' Group.

Lawyers' Group.

"Under discrimination laws, Title 7, as it relates to employment discrimination, does not include sexual orientation but it does include sex, so that's why we have a claim in there," said Lazo. "We call it sex discrimination because he was harassed based on their stereotypical ideas of what a male should be"

was harassed based on their stereotypical ideas of what a male should be."

Lazo's firm is also suing for sexual orientation discrimination under the promise of equal protections under the law, a claim that has been successfully used for sexual orientation cases, although not, to Lazo's knowledge, in a case that was specifically employment related.

related.
"If we prevail in this, it will definitely be a landmark case," said Lazo, who added that they also plan to sue on Grumbling's behalf in state court, where the protections are clear.

A call to the U.S. Postal Service's communications office was not returned at press time. ▼













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Walk Fido, help nonprofits Sunday

by Zak Szymanski

Il that's needed is a minimum of \$45 in pledges to join the September 14 "Doggone Fun Run" in Golden Gate Park, although having a love for animals and a desire to help people with life-threatening diseases is probably the best motivation.

tion.
The eighth annual Fun Run benefits Pets Are Wonderful Support, which provides pet care assistance to people with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses, and Pets Unlimited, the nonprof-

it 24-hour animal hospital with programs for low-income animal

The community-building event takes place at Lindley Meadow, off 30th Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and features a 5-kilometer human-canine run/walk; team competitions; live entertainment; and motorized cable car rides. Games include the dog/human look-a-like contest, best costume, stupid pet tricks, and "Doggy Digs, You Dine," where a dog's ability to find the winning buried bone wins a restaurant dinner for its human. Additionally, those who

would like to "borrow" or "lend" a dog for the event can work with both organizations to ensure that everyone who wants a furry park companion gets one.

companion gets one.

Fun Run preparations have been in the works all summer, with organizations, businesses, and neighborhood groups forming teams and training together.

ing teams and training together.

To register for the Fun Run, and any of its featured dog competitions, visit www.pawssf.org, or call (415) 241-1460. Participating dogs must be over six months old and be current on their vaccinations. Dog treats and water will be provided.

Proyecto event celebrates 10 years

by Zak Szymanski

omedian Marga Gomez will be among the many highprofile faces at this weekend's annual awards dinner for Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, the HIV/AIDS and health advocacy organization that celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Situated amidst the diversity

Situated amidst the diversity and activity of 16th and Mission streets, Proyecto provides refuge and empowerment to people of all ages, colors, and genders, particularly those traditionally at a disadvantage for receiving reliable information because of language barriers, cultural differences, or class status.

Ten years after its founding, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida is celebrating its first decade of service with an awards reception on Sunday, September 14, from 6-9 p.m. at the Blue Room Gallery.

The event will be co-chaired by funny woman Gomez and LLEGO Executive Director Martin Ornelas-Ouintero.

Award honorees include Barbara Garcia, deputy director of health, population, and prevention at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and Jaime Cortez, program director at Galeria de la Raza. Garcia will be honored for "her dedication to health care for the Latino community," while Cortez will be recognized for "raising the visibility and celebrating the contributions of queer Latino life." Also to be honored is the queer Latino organization AGUILAS.

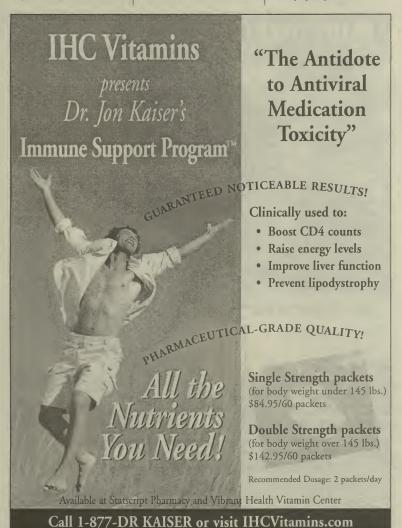
Sunday's event includes hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a silent auction. Tickets start at \$35, and proceeds benefit Proyecto, whose harm reduction and sex-positive philosophy seeks to "invigorate Latina/o bisexual, lesbian, transgender, and gay clientele in the San Francisco Bay Area with debate and desire, intellectual thought, erotic imagination, and heartfelt passion."

heartfelt passion."

Proyecto's programs include creative writing classes, social and political discussion groups, one-on-one counseling, condom distribution, and outreach.

tribution, and outreach.

The Blue Room Gallery is located at 2311 Mission Street, between 19th and 20th streets. For tickets to the Proyecto event, call (415) 864-7278 or visit www.pcspv.org.



Sarah Gonzales runs for Hayward school board

by Cynthia Laird

ut lesbian educator Sarah Gonzales is one of two gay candidates seeking election this fall to a seat on the Hayward Unified School District Board of Trustees. Longtime Hayward resident seat-time dent and retired educator Grant dent and retired educator Grant Peterson, who was profiled in last week's Bay Area Reporter, is also running for one of three seats that will be on the November 4 ballot. Gonzales, 52, is currently a professor in the College of Educa-tion at California State University, Hawward where the topic seat of

Hayward, where she teaches graduate students who want to be school administrators. Gonzales received her doctorate in educa-tion from Harvard University. From 1999-2001, she worked as an assistant superintendent of ed-ucational services for the Hayward district, and learned firsthand how many problems the district faces. Several months ago, the district's board bought out the contract of embattled Superintendent Joan

embattled Superintendent Joan Kowal, who Gonzales said did not renew her own contract in 2001, which led her to quit the district. "She was very autocratic," Gonzales said. "I was very open."

The school district's problems were the subject of much news coverage in the East Bay, as the district found itself in a fiscal crisis. Gonzales characterized the current school board members as "amica-school board members as a "amica-school board members as a micaschool board members as "amica-ble," but said the board hasn't al-ways taken the lead in dealing with the district's problems. "I'm seriously concerned with the financial situation the district in."

the mancial situation the district is in," Gonzales said, adding that this is her first run for public of-fice. "I'm a strong believer that there needs to be strong leader-

ship." Gonzales and Peterson agree



Candidate Sarah Gonzales

on most issues and she said they have had "three or four pleasant conversations." It is unlikely they will resort to negative campaign-ing in the race, and Gonzales said that so far, homophobia hasn't been an issue among the four challengers and two incumbents who are on the ballot.

"Many of us in the community think we need a new school board," she said.

'I've already begun to take part in forums," Gonzales said, adding that more meetings are planned with potential endorsers, such as the Hayward Education Associa tion, and the Alameda Labor Council.

"The unions are really involved because of the number of challengers and because of the financial difficulties and the impact of any layoffs or cuts," she said.

In terms of LGBT-related iscrimin Harvers, and the control of the con

sues in Hayward's public schools, Gonzales has been involved in various efforts to make the schools safer for all students and staff. She said the effort needs to start in elementary school, when

students can be taught to be non-hateful. She pointed to the use of the phrases "you're gay" and "that's so gay" as things kids like to say, and how that can be hurtful to students.

to students.

"It's not appropriate," she said.
Tolerance should continue to
be taught in later years, she noted.

"High school is when kids understand they're different, and
there can be real interference," she
said. "Responsible adults on campus make schools safe. We need to
get non-judgmental and healthful
information to kids."

While Peterson formally

While Peterson formally kicked off his campaign last week, Gonzales launched her bid for of-fice in July and so far, has raised slightly more than \$11,000. Her slightly more than \$11,000. Her campaign committee estimates between \$13,000 and \$15,000 will need to be raised, primarily to pay for direct mail pieces. She's also going door to door, and said one of the topics she brings up is the need for all community residents to be concerned about public schools. schools.

schools.

"Many voters don't have kids in public schools," she said, adding that they should still be interested in the race. "It [public schools] impacts their property values."

Gonzales said she believes the district has a few rough years ahead, before it comes back as one of the better school districts in the

of the better school districts in the Bay Area. ▼

Gonzales plans to be at Hayward's first LGBT Pride event this Saturday, September 13. The event takes place from 6-11 p.m. on Main Street between A & B streets. For more information on her http://home.comcast.net/~sgon

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Gay car club celebrates 25 years

by Matthew S. Bajko

he members of the Free-wheelers Car Club, a group for gay and lesbian car afi-cionados, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this weekend with a special show in the Castro. The car show, the club's 20th annual benefit, will also herald "A Century of Buicks" and will fea-ture two dozen of the carmaker's models built from the 1930s to the 1990s, including Specials. Cen-

1990s, including Specials, Centuries, Limiteds, Electras, Le Sabres, Rivieras, and Skylarks

The annual gathering will raise funds for the AIDS Emergency Fund. The club hopes to best the \$38,000 it raised last year for the Positive Resource Center.

"We always like to beat last year," said Freewheelers club pres-ident Todd Jackman, who will be showing off his 1958 Buick Limit-ed, a family heirloom his grand-

arents bought new.
The first gay and lesbian car club organized, "I guess in the world," said Jackman, the Free-wheelers have grown from a small with interactions. club into a group with more than 300 members and roughly 1,200

vintage vehicles.

The group has also helped to the group has also neiped to break down stereotypes that gay men are clueless when it comes to cars. Where other gay men will be online in chat rooms, members of the Freewheelers are on eBay looking for car parts and estate sales to find new cars for their col-

"We do get dubbed as being gearheads sometimes," said Jack-

Membership costs \$45 a year and is open to anyone in the Bay Area and Central Valley. The page 18 ▶

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No recall, yes on Bustamante

e are unambiguously opposed to the October 7 recall election that asks voters whether Governor Gray Davis should be removed from office. Davis, a Democrat, has committed no criminal act to warrant the recall; besides, he was just reelected by state voters last November. Had conservative Republican Congressman Darrell Issa not pumped millions of dollars of his own money into the signature-gathering effort, we doubt the recall would have ever qualified in the first place. The recall is bad for California and voters should reject it by

voting no on the first part of the ballot.
While we certainly have our disagreements with Davis on a variety of issues ments with Davis on a variety of issues most notably his inexcusable refusal to grant parole to two gay men whom courts have ruled eligible for release from prison he has stepped up to the plate regarding most LGBT-related legislation. Later this month, he's expected to sign AB205, the domestic partner bill that grants more rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples who register with the state. Last month he signed AB196, Assemblyman Mark Leno's

signed AB196, Assemblyman Mark Leno's gender nondiscrimination bill.

We remember how pleased and hopeful we were when Davis was first elected governor, after 16 years of Republican rule in the state, during which time public education suffered, electricity deregulation started, and equal rights for gays and lesbians were repeatedly denied. Many of those Republican forces are now working in Arnold Schwarzenegger's campaign to replace Davis, as the actor-turned-politician has enlisted former Governor Pete Wilson and staffers to run his campaign. It was Wilson who singlerun his campaign. It was Wilson who single-handedly outraged many in the state with Proposition 187, which denied basic services

to illegal immigrants. While the initiative was tossed out by the courts, resentment has remained strong in the state; and Schwarzenegger, him-self an immigrant, has said that he supported the measure. In this historic recall election, there is a second part of the ballot that asks

to a second part or the badiot that asks voters to choose from among the 135 replacement candidates in the event that Davis is recalled. We strongly recommend Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, the only prominent Democrat on the ballot. **Editorial**

Bustamante would be an able leader and

has thus far proven himself a formidable candidate. He supports AB205, supports medical marijuana, and is a strong supporter of health care, public educa-tion, and other major issues. We don't like the recall, but the

best thing Californians can do, in our opinion, is to vote against it, then vote for Bustamante, just in case the recall passes and Davis is forced from of-fice. Imagine the chagrin of the

Republicans, after all that money spent trying to oust Davis and the winner is Democrat Bustamante.



Stop divisive Proposition

by Robert Haaland, Rich Kowalewski, and Theresa Sparks

n October 7, the voters of California n October 7, the voters of California will decide whether or not to recall Gray Davis and, if recalled, who will replace him as governor. At the same time, voters will decide on Proposition 54, the Racial Privacy Initiative, recently renamed "Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin." Proposition 54 prohibits state and local governments, public school districts, and public universities from collecting data about race, ethnicity, color or national origin. It is specifically targeted to national origin. It is specifically targeted to public education, public employment, and public contracting. Its author, University of California Regent Ward Connerly, also wrote Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action initiative passed by the voters in 1996. In our opinion, Proposition 54 is part of an ongoring effort by right-wing conservatives to diminish the rights and benefits of minority groups and a progression of similar initiatives such as Proposition 187 (cut-off benefits to illegal immigrants and their children), Proposition 209 (anti-affirmative action), and Proposition 23 (anti-affirmative action).

and Proposition 20 (anti-affirmative action), and Proposition 22 (antigay marriage).

In a study entitled, "The Racial Privacy Initiative, Anticipated Impacts on City Programs" the Human Rights Commission invited experts in health care, equal opportunity employment, employment discrimination, law enforcement, and public schools to outline the impacts Proposition 54 would have on public programs here in San Francisco. The conclusion of the study was that cisco. The conclusion of the study was that should the voters approve Proposition 54, it would have a severe and lasting impact on San Francisco's ability to identify and ad-dress discrimination in contracting, health, employment, law enforcement, and educa-

Today, city government provides a 5 per-cent bid discount for economically disad-vantaged local businesses (LBE) bidding on variage flocal minority (MBE) or women-owned (WBE) firms. This program also directs city departments to make good-faith efforts to ensure LBE/WBE/MBE participation in city contracting. It also requires prime contractors to demonstrate good faith efforts to use

local, women-owned, or minority subcontractors. If Proposition 54 is approved, the city would no longer be able to ask firms to designate race, gender, and ethnicity of the owners, determine the availability of mi-

owners, determine the availability of mi-nority owned firms or collect race, gender, and ethnicity data on contracts.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health knows that African Americans have the highest incidences of breast cancer and asthma in the area. Vietnamese women are the most at-risk for cervical cancer in San Francisco. We also know that although African Americans and Latinos are over-represented in rates of HIV, white men continue to contract the highest overall levels of HIV infection in the city. It is also true that Asians and Asian Americans have the highest rates of tuberculosis in San Francisco. There is a direct correlation between the proximity to environ-**Guest Opinion** mentally unfriendly busi-nesses and the incidence

nesses and the incidence of hospitalization for asthma, hypertension, and congestive heart failure. None of this data could have been gathered under Proposition 54. Proposition 54 will also make it no longer possible to evaluate the cultural competency of health care providers and contractors thus making it every difficult to determine whether approvery difficult to determine whether appro very difficult to determine whether appro-priate services are being provided to affect-ed groups. In San Francisco, the passage of Proposition 54 will make it difficult for DPH to develop targeted program planning and resource allocation, impossible to eval-uate the specific health needs of minority communities and illegal to collect race and ethnicity data for contractor selection and

hiring. The impact of Proposition 54 on employment discrimination is almost self-evident. No longer will the public sector be able to attempt to have its workforce reflect the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of our population or match its varied language requirements. Targeted recruitment will no longer be possible. Without the availability of comparative data, it will be next to impossible to determine the validity of employment discrimination claims. Com-plainants will also have a difficult time supporting their claims of discrimination with-out the ability to document history of such practices based on race or ethnicity

practices based on race or ethnicity.

If Proposition 54 is approved by the voters, the impact on law enforcement is manifested several ways. Without data on the race or ethnicity of our population, it is impossible for the SFPD and Sheriff's Department to recruit and hire officers who are re-flective of our city's diversity. Without the ability to track race and ethnicity of individability to track race and ethnicity of individ-uals who violate the law, it is difficult for law enforcement to design and implement pro-grams that address the root causes of these infractions, rather than just reacting to the offense itself. It is also critical to the training needs of law enforcement to bet-ter understand the prevalence of

certain types of crime in specific racial or ethnic communities.

Without the ability to collect and catalog information on race and ethnicity, it is

impossible to determine any pattern of police dis-

crimination. For example, is it true that more African American males are stopped for routine traffic infractions than other racial or ethnic groups? If it is true, is there any pattern to these stops, or is one officer more likely to make such a stop than another? It is only through the collection of racial and ethnic information that these questions and ethnic information that these questions can be answered. If African American males are indeed a target population by law enforcement then better training, education, supervision, and management of officers is required. The only way to impose realistic sanctions to stop police discrimination is to know that it is actually occurring, how often, where he whom and earner tweeters.

where, by whom and against whom.
In California, the dropout rate for high school students is two to three times greater for African Americans and Latinos than it is for Caucasians. In 2001, the California High School Exit Exam showed that 82 percent or whites and 76 percent of Asians passed the English language portion of the test while less than 50 percent of both African-Americans and Latinos passed. The disparity in math and the sciences was even greater. We also know, through nationwide studies, that re-segregation is occurring with more fre-

page 19

LETTERS

Pride theme idea

Senior Unlimited Nudes hopes the SF Pride Committee will choose this theme for June 2004: "OUT from the closet, INTO the voting booth."

Tortuga Bi Liberty San Francisco

Are there enough 'T's in GLBT?

I found Gwen Smith's column entitled "Trans-ver-satility" rather interesting [Transmissions, September 4]. Not for her views, which I was already familiar with, but for her remark that no one had ever pre-sented arguments as to why they did not wish to be

sented arguments as to why they did not wish to be included under the transgender umbrella. I found that a bit odd, as quite a number of people have expressed such views in various forums over the years. But, I will take her at her word and address this issue. First off, I would like to point out that it has nothing to do with any view that transexuals are at the top of some imaginary "gender hierarchy." I hear this issue raised a lot, but always, without fail, it is those who promote the transgender ideal who make this argument. It simply has nothing to do with superiority of one group over the other. Unfortunately, this is a rather effective way of pushing people into a corner. When all else fails, accuse them of elitism.

What it is rooted in is the simple fact that transsexualism is, for the most part, completely separate from any of the other groups huddling under the umbrella labeled "transgender." There are a few areas where there is some common ground, but that stems more from ignorance than reality. Yes, a transsexual may

rance than reality. Yes, a transsexual may be seen by some as "just a man in a dress," but that is a false view. In fact, the religious right takes advantage of this ignorance in its efforts against rights for transsexuals.

Transsexualism is a medical condi-

Iranssexualism is a medical condi-tion. It is not a choice, but is almost cer-tainly something one is born with. We don't get up one day and say, "Gee, I think I would like to be a woman!" In fact, many of us fight it for years. We try to deny who we really are. We fear the loss of friends, family, and sometimes our jobs. We may be afraid that we would be committing some horrible sin. I went through all of this before I finally faced up to who I really was.

who I really was.

Other groups that are considered transgender do not really face this issue. A crossdresser simply dresses as a woman because he enjoys it. A drag queen does not believe that he is really a woman. He is simply putting on a show. Someone who is into group the dequeer is not trying to show the world that he/she identifies as a gender other than the one assigned at high but it trying to make a stereout for existing

identifies as a gender other than the one assigned at birth, but is trying to make a statement for political or social purposes. Someone who is an androgyne is trying to deny that they have a gender at all. And the rare autogynephile is motivated by a fetishtic sexual fantasy where he envisions himself as a woman, and is sexually aroused by it.

Simply put, none of these behaviors actually involve the person having a gender that is truly different from the one supplied at birth. They all involve gender behavior, not gender identity. A crossdresser may speak of expressing his feminine side, but he still believes himself to be a man. A transsexual sees his/her self as having a mind that does not match their body. To be lumped in with groups defined by

his/her self as having a mind that does not match their body. To be lumped in with groups defined by behavior is misleading.

And finally, I do not "transcend" gender. My gender is, and always has been, female. It took me a long time to come to grips with this, but it makes a lot of things clearer. For example, I now understand why I felt like an outsider when I listened to locker room conversations concerning women. I was an outsider. I am at peace with myself now. I have laid to rest the person I began creating the day my father threw a fit because I was playing with a doll. At that early age, I realized that I had to hide the real me, though I did not completely understand why. No, I am the real me, and the real me is not transgendered. and the real me is not transgendered.

San Francisco

Erosion of democracy

Instant runoff voting augments democracy by giving a voter greater say in choosing candidates. If your first candidate tanks, your second or your third choice might rise to the top. Imagine, if such a system would be used to elect the president, you could actually vote your conscience for a first choice (perhaps, Nader) and then the lesser of the evils for back-up (say, Gore.) It would ensure that far more people would be satisfied with the result than under the current clunky system.

When San Francisco voters passed IRV in March

rent clunky system.

When San Francisco voters passed IRV in March 2002, I was delighted. I should have known that Willie Brown and cronies would thwart its implementation by making sure that a corrupt elections establishment would stall for more than a year, then tell the judge they didn't have enough time. The San Francisco Chronicle's Phil Matier and Andy Ross reported that Brown's cronies had hired Robert

Barnes's old PR firm to work against implementation of the newly-passed law. If that's legal, it's hardly eth-

ical.

All this done to benefit downtown's candidate, Supervisor Gavin Newsom, for mayor. When I asked him about IRV at a forum, Newsom said he opposed IRV because it hurt minorities: read, him. IRV had greater support in minority precincts than elsewhere. Newsom is spinning lies. He decries the injustice of not implementing the will of the people on Care Not Cash, yet works against the will of the people on IRV.

Cash, yet works against the will of the people on like. Are we talking hypocrisy or opportunism, or both!
Sad to witness the erosion of democracy on all levels. A stolen presidential election, a gubernatorial recall setting a dangerous precedent, and an important democratic reform, passed handily by the electorate, but arrogantly ignored by an anti-democratic local administration. For shame.

Nanhtali Offen

Thanks from SFAF

Mailstrom

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the 20,000 individuals who joined us appreciation to the 20,000 individuals who joined us in Golden Gate Park for the 17th annual AIDS Walk San Francisco. These 20,000 exceptional and committed individuals and their 60,000 donors helped raise \$3.1 million for the fight against AIDS. We are especially grateful to the lead corporate sponsors of AIDS Walk, including the California State Automobile Association, Gap Inc., Williams-Sonoma, Merryn's/Target, Earthlink, ABC7, NASDAQ, the Oakland Tribune and San Francisco Marriott amongst many others.

and San Francisco Marriott amongst many others.

This is a heartening outcome, most especially in light of the devastating downturn in the Bay Area economy, large-scale layoffs in our local work force and the ongoing state and local budget crises. In spite of these daunting challenges, the Bay Area continues to demonstrate an unprecedented commitment to the fight acquirest AIDS that is

dented commitment to the fight against AIDS that is a beacon of hope for the rest of the world. We would also like to thank the Horizons Foun-

We would also like to thank the Horizons Foundation for convening a multi-county community review panel that helped select the beneficiaries and make grant-making decisions for AIDS Walk. As a result of their thoughtful deliberations, 33 AIDS service organizations will receive critical grants to support vital AIDS prevention, care and treatment efforts

forts.

AIDS Walk funds are unique in their flexibility and leveragability, allowing AIDS service organizations to accomplish programmatic goals that might otherwise go unsupported. For example, hard-tofund needle exchange programs continue to receive essential support from AIDS Walk. Cutting edge treatment information and advocacy efforts will also receive AIDS Walk support this season. And numerous vital HIV services in the Bay Area, ranging from food support to adult day health to mental health services, will receive assistance from the community grants distributed through the AIDS Walk.

In light of the downturn in the economy and the trends in reduced philanthropic giving in the last two years, we anticipated that AIDS Walk revenue would decline somewhat this year, and it did, from \$3.5 million in 2002 to \$3.1 million this year. Nonetheless, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation remains committed to continuing our community grants program.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation remains committed to continuing our community grants program.

This legacy and level of support for a community grants program is unprecedented in the country. This grant-making process is especially noteworthy in light of the deep budget cuts and staff layoffs that took place this year at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Even with these serious budgetary constraints that correspond to the programment to the constraints. at our organization, we maintained a commitment to the community grants process for other AIDS service organizations. Though the grant amounts were smaller this year on the whole, we are nonetheless deeply appreciative of the revenue raised at AIDS Walk that allowed us to continue this important ser-

waik that allowed us to continue this important service to the community.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of those who helped make AIDS Walk San Francisco a terrific event and successful fundraiser. On behalf of the thousands of people living with HIV who will benefit directly from these precious resources, we thank you

> Russ Testa, Board Chair Pat Christen, Executive Director San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Center director off to good start

It was encouraging to read that Mr. Thom Lynch is beginning with a new term and an honest approach to building our communities' center.

He can do just so much, and never forget that the center is our temple of love, and we are that family of live and let live that must, if we truly care, support him in every way that we can

Marvin-Michel LeGrier II, Esq.





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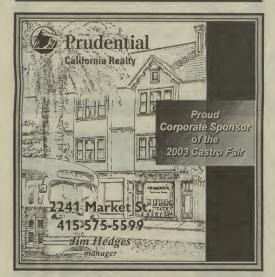


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Don't call me Mrs. Martinac

by Paula Martinac

fter many years of living in Manhattan, my partner and I recently moved to a much smaller and less expensive city so that she could accept a new academic job. The reaction of one of my best friends, who has been passionately involved in the New York gay activist scene for almost 20 years, was fear that I would be "lost" to the gay movement, no longer playing a role in LGBT politics even though I had, in his view, "so much to offer." But what I've learned in just a few weeks is something that's often not understood by big-city queers: that much of the day-to-day living of out lesbian and gay couples in smaller cities and suburbs is a vital form of activism.

form of activism.

When you reside in a large urban area with a heavy concentration of LGBT people, it's easy to forget that those of us in other places have a totally different living experience. Indeed, the 2000 census – in which, for the first time, same-sex couples could identify themselves – showed that we live in virtually every county in the United States. Not surprisingly, gay male twosomes often make opposite decisions from lesbian couples about where to live. According to a 2002 study in Population Today, pricey cities like San Francisco and Lesbian Notions

Los Angeles have large numbers of same-sex male couples, who tend to earn more than their lesbian counterparts; female couples gravitate to moderately priced towns like Santa Fe, New Mexico and Portland, Maine.

Similarly, my partner and I based our decision to leave New

Similarly, my partner and I based our decision to leave New York in large part on economics—we wanted a house, but were forced by the outrageously priced New York real estate market to live in a tiny one-bedroom apartment. Now, inhabiting a three-bedroom house in an urban neighborhood, we find ourselves having to think about things we never considered as Manhattan apartment dwellers. A question likely to face me today isn't "Should I go to the forum on antigay violence at the lesbian and gay community center?" but "Should I take the seminar at Home Depot on how to install a ceiling fan?" And that, my activist friend would say, is why I am already "lost" to the movement.

But at the same time, I now find myself intricately involved in a totally different kind of gay activism, one that I knew about

But at the same time, I now find myself intricately involved in a totally different kind of gay activism, one that I knew about from interviewing same-sex couples several years ago for a book about lesbian and gay relationships and families across the country. So many couples, particularly those with children, told me that because they lived in cities and neighborhoods with relatively small concentrations of gay people, they were constantly coming out – to everyone from their neighbors to their school officials to the appliance-repair guy. While some said they had encountered outright homophobia, more often they faced heterosexism.

Hearing this in interviews, though, is different from actually living it. Recently, a home-securi-



ty saleswoman with whom I had made an appointment on the phone asked for my husband's name. I replied that I didn't have a husband, but my partner's name was Katie Hogan and we owned the house together. She hesitated, but then wrote it

the house together. She hesitated, but then wrote it down and moved on to the next question. And our plumber stopped calling me "Mrs. Martinac" when it was clear that Katie and I shared the decision-making on the work to be done on our pipes. That's not exactly "We're

Notions

Hat's not exactly "We're here, we're queer, get used to it!" - or is it? In a way,

used to it!" – or is it? In a way, whenever gay people make the choice to be out within their mostly straight neighborhoods and cities, they are saying "get used to it." And in doing so, they take on an important kind of activism that backs up the more visible work of the larger gay rights movement.

For example, same-sex marriage rights, the hottest issue on our national movement's plate right now, will never be achieved through court cases alone. Within weeks of the landmark Lawrence v. Texas decision, when many gay activists were proclaiming that marriage rights were just around the corner, a national poll indicated that support among Americans for same-sex relationships had dropped precipitously. Politicians from both major parties rushed to oppose gay marriage.

oppose gay marriage.

This example suggests that much of the nitty-gritty work on behalf of marriage rights will be accomplished in smaller cities, towns, and suburbs by lesbian and gay couples who in the course of their daily lives just keep coming out to their fellow Americans.

They do this by going to straight religious services or PTA meetings together; buying a home that's not in a gay ghetto and putting both partners' names on the title; correcting the handyman who thinks they're "sisters." And although such efforts go largely unnoticed by gay activists in Washington, New York, and San Francisco, they make an invaluable contribution to our movement.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.





his year's annual East Bay Pride event in downtown Oakland Sunday, September 7 drew a smaller crowd than in years past, which meant there was plenty of room to play. Above, Adam Lopez tosses a Frisbee on the lawn in Oakland's City Center. Other events included live entertainment, arts and community booths, and food. East Bay Pride officials did not return a call this week seeking information on the event.

Kamala Harris for DA

by Wayne Friday

t's no secret that from the beginning, I've been an enthusi-astic supporter of Kamala Harris for San Francisco district attorney. I was, therefore, particularly pleased that the Bay Area Reporter editorial board last week decided to early-endorse Harris's candidacy.

Harris and I share a common experience in that both of us once worked for current District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**. Dysfunctional and inept are two of the milder descriptions of the D.A.'s office over the past nearly eight years. This newspaper shares my sense that it's time for a new D.A. and Harris is a brilliant, experienced career prosecutor who can and will restore competence, professionalism, and ethics to the San Francisco District Attorney's of-



Candidate Kamala Harris

The LGBT community is emerging as one of Harris's core group of supporters in this elec-tion. Apart from the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, which didn't want to hear of Hallinan's didn't want to hear of Hallinan's alleged homophobic-tinged campaigns for supervisor in 1977 and 1979 against the late Harvey Milk and Harry Britt, Harris is winning key endorsements from LGBT organizations and individuals as well as other non-LGBT-pacific corganizations that have specific organizations that have many gay and lesbian members. These include the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, the Noe Valley Democratic Club, a dual endorsement by Plan C, Milk Club founding members Hank Wilson and Jim Rivaldo (who's working on Harris's campaign), former Milk Club President **Jerry** Threet (the current Milk Club president, Robert Haaland, irked president, Robert Haaland, irked some club members when he voted "no endorsement" in the D.A.'s race at the Democratic County Central Committee meeting), respected former Empress Donna Sachet, former Supervisor Leslie Katz, former Ambassador James Hormel, lesbian pioneers Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, and Spectrum newspaper. Indeed, the most dramatic example of Harris's strength as a

ample of Harris's strength as a unifying force in the LGBT community is her endorsement by both Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and Britt, who was Leno's rival in the bitterly contested 2002 Assembly race.

Harris has impressed the transgender community and won the near-unanimous support of its leaders because of her awareness of the unique issues faced by transgender individuals caught up in the criminal justice system. For example, are you aware that most drug diversion programs are not



Vote YES for Bustamante

October 7

Our Man Friday

Vote NO on Recall

Sign of the times: Flyer distributed by the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California.

open to transgenders because they will not allow transgenders to continue taking their medica-tions? Harris has vowed to change that when she becomes district at-

torney.
Some of our community's leading attorneys, including Cris Arguedas, Scott Wiener, and Michael Weiss, among many others; LGBT law enforcement leaders like Lea Militello and most of the SFPD Pride Alliance; and Sheriff's Denartment Captain partment Captain
Connie O'Connor
are behind Harris's candidacy.

I could go on and on, but

on and on, but the main point — and this is no empty hype — is that Harris has steadily gained support in our community against two guys who have probably spent \$1 million each since 1995 promoting themselves to San Francisco voters. Admittedly, Harris is a personal friend of mine — I know her both professionally and personally — but the more important thing is that everyone who meets and hears this woman speak comes away impressed, and speak comes away impressed, and once the recall circus folds its tent once the recall circus folds its tent and San Franciscans focus on the local races, support for Harris will surge. This woman is just who we need as our next district attorney. Join me in supporting Kamala Harris. Her campaign headquar-ters can be reached at (415) 285-6764 or visit www.kamalahar-

Recall madness

Last week's candidates forum in Walnut Creek was an informain Walnut Creek was an informative affair. The event, sponsored by KTVU-Channel 2, the Contra Costa Times, and KQED-FM featured 30 minutes of Democratic Governor Gray Davis fighting to keep his job, followed by 90 minutes of debate by the five leading collections. replacement candidates: Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante (D), Arianna Huffington (I), Peter Camejo (Green), and Republicans Peter Ueberroth and state Senator Tom McClintock. There was a question asked

about same-sex domestic partner-ships, and there were no surprises with the candidates' responses. Specifically, the candidates were asked if they would sign or veto AB205, the bill that would grant most of the rights and responsi-bilities married couples have to registered domestic partners. Here's how they re-sponded, according to

ueberroth: As you explain it, in the short, sound byte form which I do not think that you can do anything in gov-

ernment, would sign it. for marriages

between a man and a woman, the sanctity of marriage. I do not believe that marriage is for same-sex

couples.
(On Tuesday, Ueberroth dropped out of the recall race.)
Huffington: I would sign it. I

believe in the equal protection clause of the Constitution. McClintock: I would veto it. I

do not care what people do in the privacy of their own homes. But I draw the line when they ask the government to approve or disap-

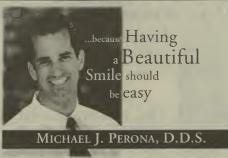
prove of it.

Camejo: Every family has gays and lesbians in it. Part of our family and part of our humanity. They must have exactly equal rights, which includes marriage. Not tomorrow, but today. Let's end this. How many centuries of the property of the viciousness do we have to allow this? Full and equal rights, including marriage.

Bustamante: I would support

it.
For the record, Davis announced last month that he would sign the bill, which cleared the Legislature last week. At press time, no date had been set for Davis to sign the bill, but it's expected to happen soon.
Republican candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger skipped the debate.

And if there were awards hand-ed out for campaign creativity, Huffington would have a shot at page 15



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Who was Dr. Sara **Josephine Baker?**

by Liz Highleyman

Ithough not nearly as well known as bisexual per-former Josephine Baker, lesbian Dr. Sara Josephine Baker was a public health pioneer who

was a public health pioneer who played an important role in improving child health and welfare.

Baker was born in November 1873 to a wealthy family in Poughkeepsie, New York. A tomboy, she described herself as an "enthusiastic baseball player and trout-fisher." Even as a child she was concerned about thoseless privileged: At age 6 she gave away the fine clothes she was wearing – a fancy dress, blue silk stockings, and even her underwear – to a raggedly dressed black wear – to a raggedly dressed black girl she encountered on the street.

When Baker was 16, her father, When Baker was 16, her father, a lawyer, died of typhoid fever. Although she had planned to attend Vassar like her mother, she instead decided to study medicine to help support her family. At a time when few women were admitted to medical schools. Baker attended

schools, Baker attended the Women's Medical Col-lege in New York City, founded by America's first woman physician, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, and her sister, Dr. Emily **Past Out** Blackwell.

Blackwell.

After finishing medical school in 1898, Baker served an internship in Boston, but soon returned to New York City to start her own practice. To supplement her meager income, she took a job as a medical inspector with the New York City Health Department. Six years later she was appointed asyears later she was appointed assistant to the health commissioner. Baker is perhaps best known for tracking down and capturing "Typhoid Mary" Mallon, an Irish immigrant cook who was linked to a series of typhoid outbreaks.

Baker encountered dismal conditions in Hell's Kitchen and on the Lower East Side, where poor sanitation and crowded living conditions caused the deaths of thousands of infants each year. thousands of infants each year. "I climbed stair after stair, knocked on door after door, met drunk after drunk, filthy mother after filthy mother, and dying baby after dying baby." she recounted in her autobiography. At a time when most doctors focused on treating people who were already ill. Baker. people who were already ill, Baker emphasized the importance of preventive health care. In the summer of 1908 she instituted a program to teach poor immigrant



ine Bake

mothers how to care for their ba-bies, which dramatically reduced the infant mortality rate and led to her appointment as head of the city's new Division of Child Hy-

giene, the first-ever children's health department.

Often dressed in a suit and tie – which she called her "protective coloring" – Baker resolutely made her way in what was then mostly a man's field, fre-

quently encountering resentment from her male colleagues. On one occasion her suc-

cessful prevention efforts led a group of male physicians to petition the mayor to abolish the chiltion the mayor to aboush the chil-dren's health department, claim-ing it was cutting into their busi-ness by keeping babies well. Baker's reform-minded efforts were not limited to children's health, as she also devoted herself

neatin, as she also devoted nersen to the struggle for women's liber-ation. Like many of her feminist contemporaries, Baker was a member of the Heterodoxy Club, a group of "unorthodox women" - many of them lesbians - who met in Greenwich Village to discuss the social and political issues of the day. Baker took part in the of the day. Baker took part in the first march for women's suffrage in New York City and met with President Woodrow Wilson and members of Congress to seek their support. She later expressed disappointment that suffrage did not appointment that suffrage did not improve women's lives as much as she had hoped. "It is still a man's world," she wrote. "The vote did not bring us either full emancipation or full opportunity."

Like other women reformers of her era, Baker never married and instead preferred female companions — although she was always

circumspect about the nature of these relationships. Baker shared an apartment in New York City with Ida Alexa Ross Wylie (better known as I.A.R. Wylie), an ac-claimed Australian author whose books were made into several books were made into several well-known movies, including the 1942 Spencer Tracy-Katharine Hepburn film, *Keeper of the Flame*. Although Baker presented a mannish appearance, Wylie maintained in her autobiography that she herself assumed the masculine she herself assumed the masculine role in their relationship. Describing a 1934 visit from Baker and Wylie, Lady Una Troubridge, partner of Well of Loneliness author Radcylffe Hall, wrote that Wylie's promiscuity and "thoughtless sexual selfishness" made Baker misarable, although this interpreta ual sensiness made baker mis-erable – although this interpreta-tion may have reflected Troubridge's own unhappiness over Hall's affairs. After her retirement from the

city health department, Baker continued to teach and write about children's health. She served as president of the American Child Health Association and later represented the United States on represented the United States on children's health issues at the League of Nations. In her later years Baker lived with Wylie and Dr. Louise Pearce, a researcher who helped discover a cure for sleeping sickness, on a farm near Princeton, New Jersey. While Wylie was emotionally involved with both Baker and Pearce, it is unclear what relationship the two doctors had with each other. doctors had with each other. Pearce and Wylie's partnership continued after Baker's death in

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@black-rose.com.

Suggested reading

Baker, S. Josephine. 1939, 1980. Fighting for Life (Krieger Publishing). Schwartz, Judith. 1986. Radical Feminists of Hetero-doxy: Greenwich Village, 1912-1940 (New Victoria).

Wylie, I.A.R. 1940. My Life with George: An Unconven-tional Autobiography (Random House).



Truly a 'Saint'

ongtime Castro tour guide Trevor Hailey, second from left, is "saint-ed" as "Saint Joaquin of the Cased" as "Saint Joaquin of the Castro" by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Sunday, September 7 at the Eagle Tavern. Hailey has been a fixture in the Castro for many years, where she conducts her popular "Out in the Castro" walking tours. The Sisters also used the occasion to distribute more than \$14,000 to various organizations through the Pink Saturday grant program. Some of the Saturday grant program. Some of the groups receiving funds included Walden House, Campfire Films, Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits, the Dyke March Photography Project, Friends of the Pink Triangle, and the Faerie Freedom Village Feehel with part year? Bride area? for help with next year's Pride event

Stupid human tricks

by Jane Warner

ix, 4086 18th Street, Sep-18, 4000 10th Street, September 5, 2:10 p.m.: Police responded to a call of a man who had been bit by a dog while he was playing pool inside of the Mix bar. When officers arwhile he was playing pool inside of the Mix bar. When officers arrived, they met with the victim, who showed them a small cut on his lip that wasn't bleeding. The man told officers that several patrons were playing rough with the dog inside the bar, chasing it and throwing objects for it to fetch. Excited, the dog – a white and brown terrier mix named Pele – jumped on the pool table and started to run around. The victim, who was playing pool at the time, bent down, and the dog playfully jumped up and gave him a kiss, biting his lip. The man refused to press charges against the dog's owner and just wanted reassurance that the dog was updated on his shots. Officers admonished Pele's pet guardian and faxed a copy of their report to the Department of Public Health for follow-up.

Secret indulgence

3500 24th Street, September 4, 3:29 p.m.: After returning home

from vacationing in Europe, a woman discovered that her BMW had been broken into; the glove compartment had been left open, and someone had rummaged through the items inside. The only thing that appeared to be missing was a credit card statement from the woman's bank and some

credit card receipts. Concerned, the woman called her bank and discovered more than unauthorized

charges on her ac count, posted from various stores in-cluding Safeway, Toys R Us, Home Depot, Kmart, Shall Oil Company, Depot, Kmart, Shell Oil Company,

Shell On Company, Sears, Nine West, and Macy's. The total of the charges was over \$9,000. Officers who responded determined that the unknown suspect obtained the credit car number from the bank statements inside the glove box and was somehow able to fraudulently charge to the woman's account using just the credit card number.

Unnecessary evil

Church Street Flowers, 212 Church Street, September 5, 5:46 p.m.: A man walked into the

flower shop and mumbled something the clerk did not understand. Moving closer to the counter, the man put his hand inside his waistband and brandished a silver handgun. It appeared to the clerk that gun was a toy, and she began to smile. Angry, the sus-pect pushed her backwards and demanded, "Open

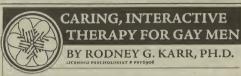
the register. Open the register." He pointed the gun at the clerk, pulling the trigger several times. The toy

gun only clicked and the clerk laughed again. The suspect pounded the keys until the drawer opened and he took an undisclosed amount of cash and fled out the door. Described as an Hisparia male 35. scribed as an Hispanic male, 35-40 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, 150 pounds, the suspect was last seen wearing a dark knit cap, green sweatshirt, and black jeans.

Punishment

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

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Recall candidates support medical marijuana

by Liz Highleyman

espite their differences on such hot-button issues as same-sex marriage, abor-tion, and the death penalty, the major candidates to replace Gray Davis as governor are unanimous on one point: support for medical marijuana.

marijuana.
During a debate on September
3, the five front-runners in the
race to succeed Davis should he be
recalled – Lieutenant Governor
Cruz Bustamante, Peter Camejo, Arianna Huffington, state Senator Tom McClintock, and Peter Ue-berroth – voiced their support for California's Compassionate Use Act, passed as Proposition 215 in

1996. It was the only issue on 1996. It was the only issue on which the replacement candidates all agreed during the 90-minute forum, held in Walnut Creek. Republican candidate Arnold

Schwarzenegger, who skipped the debate, has also indicated that he supports medical marijuana.

"The people of California spoke clearly on that subject," stat-ed McClintock, a Republican state Senator representing Thousand Oaks. "The federal government has no right to intervene." In the past, McClintock has supported medical cannabis legislation and

voted for Proposition 215.
Said Ueberroth, a Republican businessman, "When people are suffering, you give them every-thing that you can possibly do to

take away that suffering."
(Ueberroth on Tuesday announced he was withdrawing from the race, although his name will remain on the ballot.)
Huffington, a political columnist running as an independent, went further, saying she not only supports medical marijuana, but "would actually fight the Bush administration's efforts" to circumvent Proposition 215 by cracking down ministration's efforts" to circumvent Proposition 215 by cracking down on medical cannabis patients and providers. Huffington has often criticized the federal government's war on drugs in her columns, and left the Republican Party after a dispute with Newt Gingrich over the drug issue in 1996.

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Robert Noel set to be paroled

by Ed Walsh

obert Noel is scheduled be paroled this Friday, September 12, after spending two years behind bars in connection with the January 2001 dog mauling of his Pacific Heights neigh-

bor, Diane Whipple.

California Department of Cor-California Department of Corrections spokeswoman Margot Bach told the Bay Area Reporter that Noel was transferred last week from the Oregon State Penientiary to High Desert State Prison in Susanville, California, about 85 miles northwest of Reno. Noel will be freed from Susanville and will people by the picked up by

Noel will be freed from Susanville and will probably be picked up by his parole agent or his attorney, according to Bach.
Noel, 62, along with his wife, Marjorie Knoller, now 48, were arrested in March 2001 after a grand jury indicted the pair for involuntary manslaughter and keeping a

human being. Knoller was also charged with second-degree mur-

A year after their arrest, a Los Angeles jury convicted the attor-ney couple on all charges. The jury sided with prosecutors who argued that Noel and Knoller ignored warnings that their two Presa Canario dogs were danger-

ous.

A San Francisco judge later threw out Knoller's second-degree murder conviction. Although they received identical prison terms, Knoller is scheduled to be paroled in March 2004. Noel's prison time is less because unlike Knoller, he reduced his eenteree het working. reduced his sentence by working in prison. Bach said that Knoller has been unable to work, possibly

because of health problems.

Bach said that Noel will be paroled in Solano County and will be required to get written permission from his parole agent before

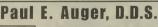
leaving that county during his three-year parole term. Bach ex-plained that prisoners are usually paroled to their home county but because of the notoriety of the case, Noel would not be allowed to case, when would not be almost of the above to serve his parole in San Francisco. As part of the deal, San Francisco County will be required to accept a parolee from Solano County in the future, the spokeswoman

added.

In an exclusive telephone interview with the B.A.R. in July, Noel said that he expected that he would be paroled in Mendocino County. Bach said it's possible Mendocino may have later refused to accept Noel.

Knoller is serving time at a women's prison in Chowchilla, in Central California. Noel served most of his time in two state pris-ons in Oregon. He was moved out of state because of security con-cerns. As attorneys, Noel and

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Castro gets facelift in time for holidays

ith little more than two months before the holi-day shopping season kicks into full swing, merchants in the Castro are racing against the clock to open new stores and install improvements to their business district.

Already changes can be seen in the neighborhood, with the long awaited expansion of Cliff's Vari-ety completed and the upgraded addition open for business, and across the street, the remodel of the old Valley Produce is nearing completion, with Superstar Video set to move in this fall.

Also timed to meet the holiday shopping season are the openings of a new shoe store on 18th Street and a spa for men on Market, as well as the relocation of Body into

the vacant Rolo store on Castro. New businesses aren't the only New Dusinesses aren't the only thing sprouting up this fall; Friends of the Urban Forest will be planting new trees along the two blocks of Castro between Market and 19th Street to add a little green to the shopping dis-trict. The plantings, which are part of Supervisor Bevan Dufty's vi-sion of a Castro Renaissance, will sion of a Castro Renaissance, will take place on November 15 just days before the annual lighting of the Castro's holiday tree.

Long the demand of many res-

idents, and often mentioned by



The new addition at Cliff's Variety store on Castro Street

Dufty as the type of store he would like to see in the Castro, a shoe store will finally set up shop in the area by the end of October. Barry Schmell and Joseph Costa have signed a lease for 4126 18th Street, the former site of the Le Salon porn store, for their shoe boutique, to be called De La Sole.

"We looked at who sells shoes, what's close by and we realized there's nothing here," said

Schmell, who has worked in start-

up companies.

The couple have mulled over opening their store since they first began dating more than two years ago. After taking a six-month business course at the Renaissance Center and landing on the notion of a high-end shoe store, the two developed a business plan but then shelved the idea.

page 19 ▶

Castro merchants target holiday shoppers

by Matthew S. Bajko

he holiday shopping season is traditionally a make or break traditionally a make of break time for many merchants. This year will be no exception. In a move to boost foot traffic – and hopefully holiday sales – in

the Castro, the merchants group is launching a concerted advertising campaign to pull shoppers from across the city into the neighbor-

Instead of traveling all the way to Stonestown Mall out on 19th Avenue, the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro wants shop-pers to come to the Castro, where stores sell everything from pots and pans and glassware to men's and women's clothing, artwork,

and womens ciothing, artwork, and holiday items like ornaments and winter plants.

Tentatively dubbed "Winter Wonderland in the Castro," the campaign will include advertisements on 200 city buses that will we most the Castro as a shopping. promote the Castro as a shopping destination. Possible slogans include "Eat, drink, shop and be merry, Mary" or "Buy it, ship it, relax, and enjoy it."

"We want to create a buzz not just for individual stores but for the neighborhood as a whole," said Paul Moffett, with P.O. Plus and a MUMC director.

Along with the ads, the concept calls for decorating the stores along Castro and Market streets with a Wonderland theme, possibly featuring snowmen and snowflakes. And in addition to the annual holiday tree lighting, set to take place on Saturday, November 22, the merchants group is looking at having entertainment, from strolling carolers to Santa Claus, each weekend during the busy shopping season

"A lot of people in the city know we have bars, which is great. They know we have restaurants, They know we have restaurants, which is great. But they don't realize there is a variety of shopping here," said Dahn Van Laarz, a member of MUMC's board who is member of MUMC's board who is responsible for publicity and special events. "Last year, I took on the holiday tree thinking we should be doing more to market the neighborhood to get more foot traffic in the neighborhood."

The ad campaign will run three months, from November through lanuary and cost \$6.000. The ads

January, and cost \$6,000. The ads will be displayed on various bus lines throughout the city and is expected to generate 6 million eye

"That is a lot of repetitive hits, which you want with advertising," explained Yan Laarz.

MUMC's board has spent the last two months working on the whose and itself the spent presentlast two months working on the plans and just this month presented the concept to the full organization. The board is kicking in \$5,000 to help pay for the campaign and is asking businesses to contribute anywhere from \$150 to \$500 to help defray the costs. The marketing campaign is in addition marketing campaign is in addition to the up to \$6,000 the merchants pay for the annual tree that is placed in front of the Bank of America at 18th and Castro

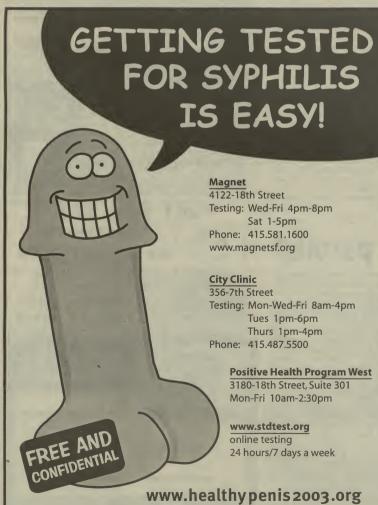
streets.

The board would like to see at least 75 businesses sign on to the plan. Each business that signs up will receive a starter kit to help with decorating its storefront.

If successful, the board would like to see the program expand in future years to include SamTrans, Celtrain and BAPT.

Caltrain, and BART.

"We want to start with baby steps. Maybe next year, if successful, then we can do something on a larger scale," said Moffett. ▼



DOMA

■ page 1

mand the attention of Congress." "I fear that it may be political acting for some outside of the Congress who want to be able to Congress who want to be able to score political points at the expense of gay and lesbian Americans." Leahy's appearance was noteworthy because, while he is the ranking Democrat on the full committee, he does not serve on the subcommittee.

Senator Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsi) said that he was one of the

consin) said that he was one of the few senators who voted against few senators who voted against DOMA. Gay marriage was far down the list of concerns of his constituents raised during the 21 town meetings he held in his state during the August recess. He questioned why the body should be devoting time to "a divisive issue that is best left to the states and courts."

He said the Federal Marriage Amendment "would have the ef-Amendment would nave the effect of writing discrimination into the Constitution ... A state should be able to grant rights and protections to same-sex couples, if it wants to, and the federal government should not interfere with that decision."

Aside from the mistake of Pro-hibition, "the Constitution has never been amended to limit basic rights," Feingold said. "We should not seek to amend the Constitution in a way that will reduce its grandeur."

Cornyn reminded the room that the hearing "is not about whether we should adopt a con-stitutional amendment," that has stitutional amendment, that has been introduced in the House but not the Senate. "In my view, that is premature." Discussion of an amendment "is for a future date,

Witnesses

The Reverend Ray Hammond, a member of the Alliance for Marriage in Massachusetts, discussed "the tripling of fatherlessness in America" and the importance of stable families in raising children.

'Marriage must be seen as an institution that goes beyond the contractual giving of rights and even beyond the emotional celeeven beyond the emotional celebration of the love of two people for each other." He saw it as reconciling the great divide of the human race, that between man and woman.

Maggie Gallagher, president of the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, asserted, "Marriage is about getting children the

is about getting children the mothers and fathers that they need." She acknowledged that the "crisis" of marriage and the family has occurred "for reasons that

obviously have nothing to do with gays and lesbians, and advocates of gay marriage."
"Unisex marriage is making a powerful statement by law and by our government that children do not need mothers and fatherles. That motherless and fatherles. not need mothers and fathers.
That motherless and fatherless families are not only just as good, they are just the same as a mother-father married family," she maintained.
Gregory Coleman, the former

solicitor general of Texas, re-viewed the history of legal challenges on same-sex marriage and two key decisions on gay issues by the U.S. Supreme Court. They were the Romer case that struck down Colorado's Amendment 2 and the Lawrence decision that struck down sodomy laws earlier

this year.

He concluded, "As things currently stand, given the outcomes and rationales in *Romer* and *Lawrence*, it is likely, though not inevitable, that DOMA itself and prohibitions on same-sex marriage more generally will be held to be unconstitutional ... within the next five to 15 years."

"The courts are robbing the American people of their funda-mental right to self-government," charged Michael Farris, an attor-

charged Michael Farris, an attorney and leader in the Christian home schooling movement. "We are on the verge of a judicial revolution that has got to stop."

Dale Carpenter disagreed. "The theory of the Federal Marriage Amendment, now being proposed, seems to be that the states must be saved from themstates must be saved from themstates must be saved from themselves. That they must be saved from their own legislatures. They must be saved from their own courts. And that they must be saved from the people," said the University of Minnesota law professor and gay columnist. [The Bay Area Reporter publishes Carpenter's OutRight column.]

"No person who cares about the Constitution should support

the Constitution should support this amendment. As a conservative, I believe it is unnecessary, it is unwise, it is contrary to the struc-ture of our federal government, it is anti-democratic, and it is a form of overkill. ... It is a solution in search of a problem," Carpenter

added.

Carpenter said that the FMA might also negate domestic partnerships, civil unions, and other protections. There are hundreds of thousands of children being raised by gay couples in the United States. "Where are the protections used who have for the care his tions under the law for these children?" he asked.

"The basic question to ask and to answer is: Given that gay peo-ple exist in America and are not going to be removed, what is to be done about them? Are we to shunt

them to the side, to ostracize, to marginalize them? Or are we to bring them into the fabric of American life?"

Keith Bradkowski spoke mov-ingly of his 11-year relationship with Jeff Collman, a flight attendant on the first plane to slam into the World Trade Center on Sep-tember 11, 2001, and of the diffi-culty of everything from obtain-ing a death certificate to maintaining their house, because they were not legally married. "The terrorists who attacked

this country killed people, not be-cause they were gay or straight, but because they were Americans. ...Two years ago we were all united against the common threat of terrorism, now I'm sitting here and being told that our relationship was a threat to our country." He said that he did not understand

Questions

During the question period, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massa-chusetts) said the FMA would un-dermine religious freedom "by telling churches that they can't consecrate same-sex marriages, even though some churches are

now doing so."
Feingold read from Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's dissent in the *Lawrence* case, in which he asserted that the majority decision would lead to "bigamy, same-sex marriage, adult incest, prostitution, masturbation, adultery, fornication" being declared legal. Feingold asked, "if Congress should enact a series of constitutional amendments based on these predictions?"

Farris didn't think they have "the same political traction" as same-sex marriage. He asserted, "A law ultimately says what is

right and what is wrong. If morality alone cannot justify these particular laws, then no laws can be justified." He called the *Lawrence* decision "more revolutionary" than Roe v. Wade, which protected a woman's right to an abortion.

Carpenter disagreed. Ordinarily a state does not define a law on the basis of a moral justilaw on the basis of a moral justi-fication, it does so on the basis of some harm that it can demon-strate, he said. Lawrence was "very unusual" in that Texas only defended it on the basis of the

defended it on the basis of the claimed moral judgment of the people of Texas.

Throughout the country's history, more than 10,000 amendments to the Constitution have been proposed, but only 17 have been passed in the last 200-plus

years, said Carpenter. "That system has worked enormously well ... we ought to be very reluctant to touch that document, essentially on the basis of hypothetical fears

and conjecture."

Senator Richard Durbin (D-Illinois) expressed his support for traditional marriage and noted that he had voted for DOMA. But when it comes to the FMA, "I don't want to take a roller to a Rembrandt." He called it "prema-

ture to the extreme."
"When I hear Mr. Bradkowski's story, it is one that I've heard over and over again. There are certain things that we should have done to make your grief and sorrow a little less, and we didn't. And I think we can without assaulting the issue of marriage." ▼

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Sept. 11

antigay, LGBT Americans were among the heroes of September 11. Father Mychal Judge, the open-by gay, chaplain to the New York Father Mychal Judge, the openly gay chaplain to the New York City Fire Department, was killed at ground zero while administering aid to the injured. New York's then-mayor Rudy Giuliani hailed Judge as a role model, and the world saw a religious gay man as part of the fabric of a traditionally heterosexual culture.

Here in the Bay Area, the community mourned Mark Bingham, a passenger aboard United Airlines Flight 93. Bingham, an openly gay businessman and rugby player from San Francisco, is believed to be one of the heroes who

lieved to be one of the heroes who fought to wrestle the plane from the hijackers. Flight 93 crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, the only hijacked aircraft that did not reach

worldwide as a hero, and his memorial service was attended by Republican Senator John McCain (Arizona). His sexuality was integral to who he was, and his friends argued for its inclusion in media reports of his death. Bingham's heroism was important to many who had fought for recognition of gay contributions, and for columnist Andrew Sullivan, it was also significant in that it dispelled

many stereotypes about gay men.
"Every jock in America needs
to know that a brawny gay rugby
player helped save this country

from a calamity," Sullivan wrote shortly after the attacks.

Riding the wave of compassion, several LGBT Americans were able to secure some impor-tant gains for the community. Grieving same-sex partners, for instance, became examples of inequality, and gay advocacy groups pushed for their inclusion in spousal relief packages set up for the victims of the attacks.

New York's Republican Gover-nor George Pataki stepped up to the plate and awarded surviving domestic partners equal spousal benefits in state compensation re-lated to the attacks. The Red Cross also recognized same-sex partner-ship in the distribution of its \$100

million in survivor benefits.

In June 2002, Bush signed the Mychal Judge Act, which provides federal money to the beneficiaries of public safety officers killed in the line of duty, including domes

And although it took about a year and a half, Peggy Neff, the surviving partner of Pentagon attack victim Sheila Hein, was finally awarded \$557,390 from the federal Victim Compensation Fund, which marked the first time the federal government recognized a same-sex relationship on about the same level as marriage.

Such benefits, while significant, vere mostly awarded as an exception to regular rules, due to an ex ceptional circumstance. Still LGBT advocates believe that th eptional circumstance. Still, GBT advocates believe that the benefits granted can be used as precedents to argue for future do-mestic partnership inclusion in survivors benefits and pensions.

Backlash

On the other end of the spectrum, LGBT people continue to be demonized, whether as antiwar activists, people of Middle Eastern or Muslim backgrounds, immigrants, or pro-American soldiers being to general their country.

hoping to serve their country.

With the passage of the Patriot
Act in 2001, the government created new crimes and/or enhanced
penalties for existing crimes, eased
restrictions on its ability to search homes and intercept communica-tions, and further tightened U.S

Under the Patriot Act, the FBI may search and seize records or personal belongings without a warrant, without showing probawarrant, without showing proba-ble cause, and without ever notify-ing innocent people of the search-es. The FBI may also monitor in-nocent people's reading and Inter-net habits, and a "gag order" is im-posed that prohibits people from revealing whether the FBI request-ed information from them.

Since September 11, 2001, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Comand Lesolan Human Rights Com-mission, LGBT people have suf-fered both here and abroad, whether through U.S. immigra-tion policy or American foreign

'The tightening of regulations have an impact on immigrants in general, but in particular on our community," said Dusty Araujo, asylum program coordinator at IGLHRC. Those seeking asylum in the U.S. based on the persecution they face in their home coun-tries, said Araujo, most likely have to present much more evidence to prove that their safety is at risk

And many immigrants who are deported or detained leave their same-sex partners behind; marsame-sex partners benind; marriage is not an option for these couples, and thus far no other form of couplehood recognition allows same-sex partners to sponsor each other for citizenship.

Additionally, said IGLHRC advocates, U.S. foreign policy, while quick to justify attacks on countries because of their human.

tries because of their human rights violations, also ignores those same violations of allied

countries that have aided U.S. mil-

itary missions. In Uzbekistan, for instance, activist Ruslan Sharipov was arrested in May of this year and remains in detention, charged with a vari-ety of crimes related to homosexual sex. All court proceedings have thus far been conducted behind closed doors, opening the way for torture, forced confessions, and unfair pleadings, but IGLHRC ad-vocate Sara Moore said that be-cause the U.S. has started to move troops into Uzbekistan, this case

troops into Uzbekistan, this case has largely been ignored. "Our State Department's hands are tied," said Moore. "We need strategic allies, so we'll overlook these abuses. And these countries know it." The U.S. military still finds it-

self in a homosexual panic of its own; "Don't Ask Don't Tell" discharges for homosexuality remain charges for homosexuality remain in effect, although often not until after gay soldiers have already served. Such a practice begs the question, according to recent separate reports issued by Human Rights Watch and the Service-members Legal Defense Network, why homosexuals are permissible apermissible. why homosexuals are permissible when needed for war, yet also considered a threat to military cohe

on the flip side, the U.S On the flip side, the U.S. Marines lost a gay soldier this year who was not discharged for his homosexuality, but rather, who had claimed conscientious objector status to the "war on terror" in Iraq. Stephen Funk, who left his unit in San Jose and turned himself in last April, was sentenced to iail and a bad conduct discharge jail and a bad conduct discharge last week [see story, page 2]. Funk received both criticism and praise for not challenging the DADT policy when he made the decision

policy when he made the decision to leave the military.

In the civilian world, other groups of people have found themselves labeled as "terrorists" or "suspicious" simply for engaging in their right to free speech, religion, or association, and as a result, the ACLU filed a lawsuit against Bush's Patriot Act in July, calling it unconstitutional.

"We know from our clients

"We know from our clients that the FBI is once again target-ing ethnic, religious, and political minority communities dispropor-tionately," said ACLU attorney Ann Beeson. "Investing the FBI with unchecked authority to monitor the activities of innocent people is an invitation to abuse, a waste of resources, and is certain-

ly not making any of us any safer." Increased security at American airports has also affected LGBT people in unique ways; transgenders and gender-variant individ to their unconventional and therefore "suspicious" presenta-tions, and those within the leather community find they must take extra precautions when packing anything that resembles a

Of course, those targeted for suspicion unfortunately do not face only legal issues; anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hate crimes rose 1,700 percent in the year 2001, and local incidents here and across the country over the last two years continue to show that bigotry is alive and well in Ameri-

For gay Muslim Americans, this presents a predicament, as they face many forms of discrimination from within and outside of their religion and nationalities.

Without dismissing how fun-damentalists can twist religion to condone violence, people like members of Al-Fatiha – the American-based group for queer Muslims – nevertheless have as-serted their right to live as free Americans within the United States, which includes the right to

"Looking at the state of the U.S. today and the world in general, I'm more pessimistic than I have ever been before. I'm also furious at the amount of damage that has been done by the current administration," said a statement issued last week by Al-Fatiha's di-rector Faisal Alam, reflecting on the two-year anniversary of Sep-

"We must create a government that takes care of the social neces-sities of its citizens (and non-citi-zens), regardless of their income, their social status, their immigra-tion status, their race, gender, sex-ual preference, their religious and political beliefs, or their sex," said Alam. "Together we can create change ... we can create a world that is rooted in peace and juswe can create a world

Emerging voices

Two years after the initial on-slaught of spokespeople, human rights campaigns, and war and peace efforts, many LGBT people continue to convey a message that emerged from the events of Sep-tember 11 but that speaks about life – and love – on a broader scale.

scale.

Keith Bradkowski, for example, who lost his partner Jeff Collman in the attacks, testified at a Senate subcommittee hearing on September 4, which was called to examine whether there is a need for a constitutional amendment banding comments of the service of the servic

ning same-sex marriage.
"The terrorists who attacked this country killed people not be-cause they were gay or straight – but because they were Ameri-cans," Bradkowski said through tears. "It is heart wrenching that our own government does not protect its citizens equally, gay and straight, simply because they are

And locally, activists and advo-And locally, activists and advo-cates are working to keep the memory of terrorist victims alive, whether they died as a direct to indirect result of September 11. San Francisco's Eureka Valley Recreation Center was renamed

for Bingham, an international rugby tournament at Golden Gate Park was held in his honor, and a scholarship fund distributes grants to students at the Universi-

ty of California.
San Francisco resident Dr. Paul Quick, on the other hand, is tak-ing a different approach, speaking out on behalf of peace and against war to honor U.N. envoy Rick Hooper, who was killed in an Iraqi terrorist attack against U.N. head-quarters in Baghdad on August 19. The U.S. entered Iraq after insisting that the country had weapons of mass destruction and ties to terrorist groups responsible for the September 11 attacks. Quick, who met Hooper more

than 20 years ago, has been writ-ing letters and speaking out against the war in Hooper's honor, he said, because Hooper "really committed his life to the cause of peace and social justice, and saw those two things as integral to each other.

gral to each other.

"In Rick's case it's very clear to
me that the war in Iraq was a precondition for his death. Only the
chaos that came from war allowed this to happen ... it poignantly shows the futility of meeting vio-lence with more violence," he

This war was supposed to protect us from terrorism and bring peace to the Middle East, but what it's done, in fact, is to take away this person whose con-tributions were so important," said Quick. "The cycle of violence does nothing but deprive us of our peacemakers." ▼







Gay man at the center of a State **Department HIV lawsuit speaks out**

n HIV-positive gay man is suing the U.S. Department of State to become a diplomat. The lawsuit seeks to knock down the only place in the U.S., besides military service, that still refuses to hire someone who is in-

refuses to hire someone who is in-fected with the virus.

Lambda Legal Defense and Ed-ucation Fund, with co-counsel from the prestigious firm of Arnold & Porter, filed the suit on his behalf in Washington, D.C. on September 3. The case is Taylor v. Powell

In this exclusive interview the plaintiff, for the first time, sits down to talk about the road that

down to talk about the road that led him to the courthouse.

"I've always wanted to be a foreign service officer," said Lorenzo Taylor, 47, a native of Birmingham, Alabama. He spent a year in Grenoble, France as a high school exchange student and was drawn to Washington to attend the

exchange student and was drawn to Washington to attend the renowned School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Upon graduation, his mastery of French and Spanish led the State Department to hire Taylor as an escort/interpreter, an independent contractor with the agency. He traveled the country often for He traveled the country, often for weeks on end, translating and exweeks on end, translating and explaining America to foreign community leaders who were visiting on a fellowship program. He often worked with political, social, and academic leaders from Africa.

And then Taylor learned he was carrying the virus. "I had a partner at the time who developed HIV in December 1984," soon after the acid existing the virus."

HIV in December 1984," soon after the epidemic acquired that name. Taylor had the same physician and when the FDA approved the first antibody test for HIV in early 1985, it showed that he too was infected.

Those were the darkest days of the epidemic in the U.S., when AIDS was considered a death sen-tence. There were no treatments –

AZT, the first drug, would not be approved for two more years, and protease inhibitors were a decade

protease inhibitors were a decade away – Taylor's lover deteriorated rapidly and died in September.

After 10 years of frequent travel as an escort/interpreter, Taylor was ready for a change. His desire to be a foreign service officer had cooled a bit. "As a person living with HIV, the idea of living abroad in the late 1980s was probably not a wise thing to do," he said. Plus, one of his best friends had been kicked out of the diplomatic corps for being gay, and would wage a multi-year legal fight to regain his job.

job.
Taylor chose to go to the University of Minnesota to earn a master's degree in public health. His new career path focused on HIV. He worked on prevention for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, went to a local worker in Degree and for the and Prevention, went to a local program in Denver; and for the last five years has been back in Washington at the Department of Health and Human Services as a project officer administering Ryan White CARE Act Title 1 programs on the West Coast.

Policy change

Policy change
Love, and a policy change, got him to thinking again about a career in the State Department. The agency policy is that Foreign Service officers must be available for worldwide service, and HIV is an automatic exclusion to being hired. U.S. diplomats are tested for HIV as a part of regular medical care and, like the military, an exception is made for those already employed who seroconvert. They can remain on the job as long as

employed who seroconvert. They can remain on the job as long as they are healthy.

In August 2001 the department dropped similar HIV exclusions for hiring local employees at embassies around the world. It said the policy would "bring our overseas hiring and workplace practices in line with global U.S. efforts to fight the AIDS pandemic. With this new policy, the U.S. sets an ex-



Plaintiff Lorenzo Taylor

ample consistent with its message of non-discrimination to host countries and private industry, at the same time giving priority to education and prevention efforts in promoting and maintaining employee health."

Taylor had been dating a for-eign service officer for more than a year and they knew that the fel-low eventually would again be posted overseas. The ban on gays openly serving as diplomats had been lifted during the Clinton ad-ministration, and while not officially recognizing gay couples, the department does try to arrange assignments together where pos-

arduous hurdles that one must take to join the Foreign Service – the written exam that winnows down candidates and the oral interview – when, in December 2001, he hit the wall of the med-

ical exam.

Taylor said the department had laylor said the department nau-changed the policy on local em-ployees because they were having trouble finding qualified people in Africa who were not HIV-positive. "We thought, maybe they would look more closely at the [remaining] policy. We thought that they would look at my full medical history and have a different attitude toward it." That would prove not

"I was shocked," he said, when the medical officer said that HIV was an automatic exclusion and they would not reconsider. He said, "That was probably the worst day because it was realizing that this was going to be a struggle."

Taylor began the administra-

Taylor began the administrative appeal process and later filed a discrimination complaint through the Equal Employment Opportunity office. He also began talking with Lambda Legal. When the EEO report came out in June 2003 and "didn't really say much of anything," they decided to go to court.

court.
"Not everybody with HIV can do this job," he readily admits, "but there are people with HIV who can, who can live and work and travel abroad, in part because of the advances and the availability of medication that has made it a chronic, manageable illness" for many people.

a chronic, manageable illness" for many people. Taylor believes that each per-son should be evaluated on the basis of his or her individual med-ical history. While he tested posi-tive for HIV in 1985, he has never been symptomatic and his viral load remains undetectable on a

protease-sparing regimen. "I'm not sure that any of the meds are really the thing that's keeping me alive," he said with a laugh.

The hiring policy is a relic from the darkest days of AIDS. It is based on the premise that "adequate HIV medical care is not universally available worldwide."
But it is undercut by the department's retention of those employees who seroconvert while in the ees who seroconvert while in the Foreign Service, and by the Peace Corps that has no such exclusion and sends people into remote vil-lages that many American diplo-

and sends people into remote vinlages that many American diplomats have never seen.

Taylor said the policy keeps the
State Department from hiring
Americans who are some of the
most knowledgeable and experienced with HIV. It threatens to
undermine the Bush administrational's \$15 billion dollar international initiative on AIDS, which,
ironically, seeks to greatly increase
access to therapy so that those at
the heart of the pandemic can lead
longer, more productive lives.

Taylor said the hiring policy
"ties up our moral authority to
speak authoritatively on HIV (as a
country) with a policy that doesn't
allow people with HIV to serve
their country." He would like the
State Department to come to its

State Department to come to its senses, and his lawsuit may be the way to do that. ▼

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Our Man Friday

first place for a hilarious two-minute "flash film" ad that was re-leased on her Web site and e-mailed to voters last week. The ad, "Hybrid vs. Hummer" is a spoof Hydrid vs. Huminer is a spool featuring cartoon characters of Huffington, zipping along in her hybrid car, and Arnold Schwarzenegger, who's racing her in his Hummer. Schwarzenegger eventually loses the race (he has to stop to refuel his vehicle several times and is bogged down by "special interest" money), while Huffington is headed to the Capi-

According to an article in Monday's Los Angeles Times, campaign consultants not involved in the recall race are divided about the recall race are divided about whether the Hummer ad will have any real effect, but Huffington supporters, not surprisingly, love it. You can see it at www.voteari-

anna.com.

Schwarzenegger's campaign
strategy is becoming clearer as he
refuses to appear with opponents,
refuses one-on-one interviews
with political reporters, and agrees
to appear only on friendly conservative radio talk shows, while spending millions on slick, wellprepared television ads. It's all part of a carefully scripted campaign designed to afford the movie actor the luxury of not being forced to offer any specifics on how he would run a state beset by finan-

would run a state beset by man-cial and political gridlock. Clearly, Schwarzenegger's han-dlers have decided on a plan that capitalizes on his star power and avoids situations that could exavoids situations that could expose their candidate to political risk. The only debate that Schwarzenegger has agreed to participate in is one scheduled for September 24 sponsored by the California Broadcasters Association. The format is one in which the candidates will be given the questions in advance, and allows for no rebuttal.

Incidentally, the head of the CBA is Stan Statham, a former Republican assemblyman who represented northeastern California for many years.

represented northeastern Califor-nia for many years. While Schwarzenegger por-trays himself as a "new" type of political leader, his campaign is being taken over by seasoned Republican professionals, most of whom are connected closely to the

last GOP governor, **Pete Wilson**.
The National Stonewall Democrats announced Wednesday, September 10 that it is urging its members in California to vote no

on the recall of Governor Gray Davis and to vote for Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante on the second question. The NSD executive committee issued the postition in response to requests by NSD's California chapters. In statewide races, National Stonewall Democrats maintains an endorsement policy that first gives deference to its local chapters.

Politics and people

Some mayoral campaign watchers tell me that supporters of Angela Alioto and Tom Ammi-ano are ganging up on Board of Supervisors President Matt Gon-

Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez's late-entry candidacy with some pretty snide whispers and remarks. Interesting.

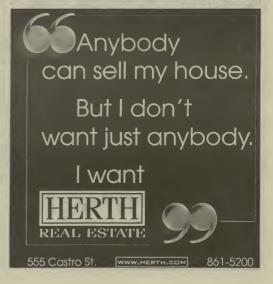
And to the reader who wrote asking what I know of Gonzalez: He's a really bright guy, but can he get elected mayor? I doubt it; too many Democratis in his heavily Democratic city are still mad as hell at Ralph Nader and the Green Party for putting George W. Bush in the White House (in other words, I think Gonzalez should have stayed a Democrat in should have stayed a Democrat in

With Democratic presidential candidate **Howard Dean** now page 19 ▶

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Lesbian priest liberates God's image

by Eric Ganther

Who: Rev. Kathleen McAdams What: Assistant rector at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Palo Alto Contact: (650) 322-4528

ne of the first things God told Adam and Eve was that their children would have diverse sexual orientations. This would have made bigger headlines in Eden, but Snake showed up, turned Eve onto the apple, and got everyone evicted. Five thousand years of toil and homophobia later, humans are beginning to re-member what God was saying. One clear sign of this liberation is the powerful fact of the Reverend Kathy McAdams – woman, les-bian, and Episcopal priest.

Congratulations on belonging to a church that recently took a very visible stand for the equality of gays and lesbians in the clergy.

Thank you. The confirmation in Minneapolis [of openly gay priest Gene Robinson as bishop] was a giant step forward for us. The people of the New Hampshire Diocese elected the Reverend Robinson as their bishop. I believe that General Convention made the right decision to confirm New Hampshire's choice by a two-to-one margin.

Now that we can consider this as career path, what do Episcopal priests do?

priests do?

In my position as assistant rector, I am responsible for middle school and high school youth ministry. I provide pastoral care for parishioners [spiritual and emotional support for people in need or in crisis]. I help in doing outreach projects and working outreach projects and working outreach projects and working with the community. I preach [give sermons]. I lead liturgies including our main Sunday worship as well as funerals and weddings and baptisms. I'm on community boards and committees such as the advisory board for Urban Ministry of Palo Alto, which serves the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. My congregation is also involved with Penin sula Interfaith Action, advocating for affordable housing in the area. Working in the community is a big part of being a priest

What do you like about being a

priest?

I like helping people find God in all the moments of their lives – the mundane everyday moments and the special moments like birth, marriage, and death. I became a priest because I want to help people know themselves as children of God, created in God's image, and know that we are inimage, and to know that we are in-timately and eternally loved by God. And when we get that, we live differently. We come from a sense of gratitude and also a sense of ease. If we don't have anything to prove, if we don't feel we have to earn salvation, then we have a sense of being taken care of. We can feel secure enough and grateful enough to reach out and make a difference in the world. So many people have gotten negative messages from re-ligious leaders, that they're sinful and vorthless. If they believe that,

the world, or get angry, or get depressed and suicidal – all things that we see in our [LGBT] community. But that is not the God I know. The God I know is constantly forgiving and welcoming people back with open arms. There is no sense of punishment. No need to be a certain way in order to get God's blessing. Salvation is a free gift. It's already

they tend to turn away from

What do you find challenging about being a priest?

I am privileged to share many intimate details of people's lives, and sometimes those details are painful. And I walk with people through those painful times. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. But it's hard. Then there's the sense of balancing my priesthood with my relationship. I have a partner of nine years. I wear two rings. One has a cross. wear two rings. One has a cross. And the other symbolizes my commitment to my partner. They are both absolutely number one in my life. Co-equals. Every priest I know who has a partner or spouse deals with issues of balance.

One of the biggest challenges is to stand up against the culture. The culture that says you must work 70 hours a week and must

do all of these things to achieve, "Do! Do! Do!" and "Buy! Buy! Buy!" I try to call people back to rest and retreat, but the culture pulls them back into striving.

So, the church is countercultural, just like Jesus was counter-cultural. If people will engage in the faith community and really be in community, then we have a re-lationship and we can actually tend to each others' healing

What makes a good priest?

What makes a good priest?

Good priests have a deep personal prayer life that grounds us in connection with God. We have to be grounded in our own sense of self and also in Scripture. We have to live within the framework of our tradition.

tion. We obviously have to love people, and we have to be patient and flexible. It helps to be a generalist because we do so many different things.

Queer Careers

How do you keep it fresh?

Right now, I'm exploring different styles of I'm exploring different styles of preaching. A couple of weeks ago one of the passages was about putting on "the whole armor of God," so I put on a suit of armor. We have a number of kids in the congregation and I've found that when I appeal to the kids the adults get into it too.

Are you a fundamentalist?

Absolutely not. Fundamentalism is taking the Bible literally as if ism is taking the bible literally as if God sat down and penned it. I do believe it was inspired by God, but it was written by people. My understanding of Scripture is that it is a collection of stories about a particular people's relationship to God over time, so I try to understand the historical context. Who was that person writing to? When was that person writing to? When were they writing? etc. Scripture is a tool. The Bible should not be-

What response have you had from other clergy and from parishioners about being both a woman and a lesbian?

Nomen have been ordained in the Episcopal Church since 1974, so most people in the Bay Area are over that issue. The lesbian issue is a little more mixed. In the ordination process, I never felt that I couldn't be a priest because I was gay. So I approached it very mat-ter-of-factly. I never made it an issue and the diocese never made it an issue. When I interviewed for positions, I think there were churches that didn't hire me because I was gay and they may not even have been conscious of it. On



The Reverend Kathleen McAdams

the other hand, when I started working in Palo Alto, I had a sense that being a lesbian was in my favor. The parish was already very supportive of gay people, but sometimes it's nice to see other gays and lesbians in leadership.

It seems that the biggest enemies of LGBT freedom call themselves religious leaders. Why does religion house homophobia?

It comes back to that fundanentalist bent and people think they're doing their duty. They're looking at Scripture that was writ-ten in a particular cultural context and trying to apply it now. They quote the Bible against homosexuality, but on the same page it says that people are not supposed to eat shellfish, and men aren't supposed to shave, and they're not supposed to mix fibers. Sin is doing things or adopting attitudes that turn us away from God. Sin is not a list of behavioral codes.

How has your experience as a lesbian shaped your abilities as a

The first thing I think of is that because I'm a member of an op-pressed group, it gives me an un-derstanding of the experience of people in other oppressed groups. I tend to come at theology from a liberation perspective

Historically it is my sense that LGBT (or queer) people have been drawn to the priesthood. Do you agree and if so, why?

I have a theory about gay men being drawn to the Catholic priesthood because of celibacy. If priesthood because of cenoacy. If you're an adolescent and you're struggling with feelings that you don't think you're supposed to be having, then celibacy is a safe container. But for Episcopalians, I don't know if it's true. And I'm not sure it's true of lesbians versus straight women aither. straight women either.

What would you recommend to somebody interested in becoming

Go to church! Be a part of the church community, no matter the denomination. Ordained leadership in the Episcopal Church is raised up by the local community, so you have to be involved in a so you have to be involved in a parish. You have to be doing ministry [discussion groups, liturgical leadership, meals for the homeless, visiting people in the hospital] in that parish. You have to express the calling. If your community agrees that the calling you feel is indeed to ordained ministry. is indeed to ordained ministry, then they will raise you up.

How did you become assistant rector at All Saints' Parish?

My path was circuitous. I started out as an elementary school teacher in Denver. I moved here in 1989 and worked for the SPCA as an educator. I had decided to pursue a veterinary degree, but before I went, I attended an ordination at Grace Cathedral of six women. And I had this profound sense that this was what I was supposed to be doing. So I prayed to God, "Okay, if this is really what you want me to do, I need a really clear sign." And the next song was about the call of Saul. My agreement with God was, if this is what you want me to do, lead me. And God did. I explored and did some ministry in my parish. I led groups at SFSU about being gay and Christian. I took every oppor-tunity to do some kind of min-

I went to the Graduate Theo-logical Union in Berkeley and graduated in 2000. When I was or-dained, I applied and interviewed at All Saints' and feel fortunate. There's a bit of a glut of priests in the Bay Area because it's liberal and beautiful. But because I'm a lesbian, there are dioceses that won't accept me, so I'm limited to mostly urban areas.

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.



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Marijuana

◄ page 11

nent Democrat running on the re-call ballot, agreed with his rivals. "I support the vote of the people," he said. "[A]s long as it is properly distributed, I think it is the right thing to do."

As a member of the state Assembly, Bustamante supported medical cannabis legislation, but medical cannabis legislation, but during his tenure as lieutenant governor under Democrat Davis—who opposed Proposition 215—Bustamante has done little to actively support California patients and providers prosecuted by the federal government.

Camejo, the top Green Party candidate, noted the disparity in

how the United States promotes tobacco - "the most addictive drug, killing millions through the world" – while criminalizing cannabis, which is "not an addictive drug and kills no one." Camejo has previously said that he supports decriminalization of mari-

Schwarzenegger – who revealed in a recently publicized 1977 *Oui* magazine interview that he had used "grass and hash" and was shown smoking a joint in his movie Pumping Iron - last month told talk radio host Sean Hannity that while he thought drug legal-ization in general was "a bad idea," he favored medical marijuana. Campaign spokesman Rob Stutz-man said Schwarzenegger sup-ports patients obtaining cannabis

with a doctor's prescription, but has taken no position on medical marijuana dispensaries. Among the minor gubernator-

ial candidates on the recall ballot, Democrat Bruce Margolin, a de-fense attorney and director of the Los Angeles branch of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, favors legalizing and licensing marijuana – which he estimates will generate \$2 bil-lion in revenue for the state – and has promised to sue Attorney General John Ashcroft to stop fed-General John Ashcroft to stop fed-eral attacks on medical cannabis patients and providers. Former East Assemblywoman Audie Bock, who was a Green, then an independent, and is now running as a Democrat, also favors legalizing and licensing marijuana.

Stop AIDS celebrates after another rough year

by Matthew S. Bajko

he Stop AIDS Project's employees, volunteers, and sup-

pioyees, volunteers, and sup-porters will come together Monday night at its annual gala fundraiser to honor local heroes in HIV prevention. But along with championing community leaders who continue to fight the spread of HIV, the or-ganization will also celebrate its own ability to survive another. own ability to survive another year of federal audits and attacks from conservative lawmakers and AIDS dissidents who want noth-

In its latest skirmish over its In its latest skirmish over its programs, Stop AIDS has yet to receive a face to face meeting with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Julie Ger-18, the agency requested a meeting with Gerberding and asked that the CDC provide clear and consistent guidance to community-based organizations. To date, the agency's request has gone unanswered.

"We've spent almost two years proving again and again to the CDC and Health and Human Services that our work is fully com-pliant, and yet we're still being harassed," said Executive Director Darlene Weide in a statement. "These attacks have never been

"These attacks have never been about public health – they've always been about politics."

The letter to Gerberding came after two months of consultations with the CDC regarding specific interpretations of Section 2500 of the Public Health Service Act, and after an apparent flip-flop by the CDC, which had issued a statement in February 2003 in support of Stop AIDS Project's efficacy and of Stop AIDS Project's efficacy and compliance with federal guide

Then in June, Gerberding sent a letter to Republican Congress-man Mark Souder (R-Indiana), who as chair of the Criminal Jus-tice Subcommittee in the House of Representatives has repeatedly questioned prevention funding, which stated "recent Stop AIDS workshop titles and program de-



SAP's Darlene Weide

scriptions that involve, for example, advice on promoting relations with escorts and prostitutes, in my view, appear to violate Section

Gerberding stated in her letter that as CDC director, she is committed to ensuring that CDC funds are not used in this manner. In a separate letter in June, sent to Stop AIDS and the city health department, Sandra Manning, director of the CDC's procurement and grants office, wrote that "continued actions that are not consistent with Section 2500 will result in a disallowance or discontinuation of federal funding? to the agency. Stop AIDS receives nearly \$700,000 in federal funds.

"We've been trying to work with CDC staff, but it's still not clear what kind of information – clear what kind of information—if any—would be enough," Weide said. "There is already an effective and rigorous local review process in place, yet the CDC is asking us to second-guess those decisions. Community planning is at the heart of effective HIV prevention."

Stop AIDS maintains that the CDC's arbitrary interpretation and subsequent reinterpretation of Section 2500 has made it impossible for the agency to answer the CDC's many requests. The agency also argues that none of the workshops questioned by the CDC in recent correspondence were, in fact, paid for using feder-

even taking into account who is footing the bill," Weide said. "The CDC is using taxpayers' dollars to wage a campaign of harassment and intimidation against the Stop AIDS Project, when what we real-ly need is for them to talk straight

to us."

In her letter to Gerberding,
Weide wrote, "The CDC's guidelines and Section 2500 do not prohibit us from using other, nonCDC funds to produce a wide variety of HIV prevention materials or programs, even if they are considered controversial or otherwise objectionable by the CDC.

Sparring with the Times

The agency has also recently sparred with the conservative newspaper the Washington Times for using San Francisco resident Michael Petrelis as a stringer and inaccurately reporting in August that workshops on what the paper deemed "flirting" had been paid for by the federal government.

In a letter to the editor, Stop AIDS spokeswoman Shana

In a letter to the editor, Stop AIDS spokeswoman Shana Krochmal wrote, that in fact, the programs had been paid for by city funding and that the workshops were designed to help men remain HIV-negative. The paper's Inside the Beltway column referenced the workshop "Flirt, Date, Score" – referred to as "flirting classes" – but it was not paid for by the CDC, as the column claimed.

by the CDC, as the column claimed.

"Designed to help men learn communication skills that will help them ensure that potential partners are equally committed to having safer sex – or to reject partners whose standards don't meet their own – the workshop is based on sound hebayioral models and on sound behavioral models and on sound behavioral models and has been fully approved by our local review panel," wrote Krochmal, who demanded the paper run a correction. As for Petrelis, who, as part of a

no contest plea in San Francisco Superior Court in July, was ordered to participate in mandatory mental health counseling and is under court order to stay away from numerous local officials due

John Ralph Caporale



John Caporale, or Johnny as he was known, died of/from PML Sep-tember 21, 2002 at Maitri Hospice, San Francisco

Maitri Hospiec, San Francisco.
He is survived by brother Kenny Caporale of Phoenix, Arizona, niece Tammy Blood, and grandnieces Dominique, Samantha and Donna Blood of Tucson, Arizona.
Johnny will be remembered as a sweet, generous, witty, eccentric and loving man. Playful and optimistic until the end, Johnny will be missed by those whose lives were touched by his remarkable spirit.
Many people came to know Johnny from his many years at Browsers Nook Antiques on Castro Street. Many a bookcase and fine dovetailed dresser were sold, delivered and/or installed by him.

him.

His last employer was Floor Designs at 25 Rhode Island St. in the SoMa district. He worked as a bookkeeper assistant and accounts payable clerk. Being multitalented, he also filled in as front desk receptionist with his clever people skills and friendly and warm demeanor. Johnny said that working at Floor Designs was his most fulfilling work experience.

Johnny wanted to express his appre-ciation for all the friends in life that came to visit him while at Maitri. It gave him great comfort, and he wanted to be

sure that you would know he loved you for that expression of caring about him. Special thanks for the legal and medical duties performed by Paul Graham, Timothy Thompson and Joseph Huff on Johnny's behalf. Thanks also to Nicole Bilotti for her love and support of Johnny and for chronicling his last days here. Johnny requested no funeral or memorial service, but in honor of his memory contributions to Maitri Hospice would be greatly appreciated. Johnny's remains were returned to Arizona to reside in the family tomb at Saint Thomas Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona. May you rest in pure pace my friend; I can assure you never one day goes by that you aren't in our thoughts and prayers.

OBITUARY POLICY

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must display ad obituaries, which mus be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

to making threatening phone calls to public health officials and others, Krochmal said the newspaper's using him as a reporter is a slap in the face of sound journal-

ism. "Petrelis is hardly a reliable

Cat tha

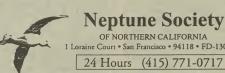
source for information, and the fact that Inside the Beltway would rate him a 'stringer' is an insult to fair and balanced news gathering,"

she wrote.
With the ongoing threats to its

page 18 ▶

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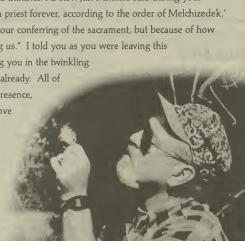
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Rev.	Michael	Taylor	Redding	Oct. 23,	, 1948 – Sept.	2, 2002
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The Love of my Life, Shaman, Teacher, Healer, Student, Ordained Interfaith Minister and Ordained MCC minister. As Rev. Jim Mitulski said during your MCC ordination, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek," and he is. Not because of our conferring of the sacrament, but because of how he has lived and lives among us." I told you as you were leaving this physical plane, "I'll be joining you in the twinkling of an eye." Here it is a year already. All of

us here miss your physical presence, but are comforted by your love and constant reminders that you are always with us.

The Love of Your Life. Micheal Peter McRae



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CREDIT CARD INFO:

Track star

by Jim Provenzano

rank Demby, former coach of the San Francisco Track & Field Club, and a major figure in the San Francisco gay sports community for almost 20 years, died on August 27 at the age of 50. He suffered from a heart contion, compounded by his

HIV-positive status.

Born in 1953, the former nationally ranked water skier and high school athlete was a fixture with the San Francisco Track & Field Club and on the masters track circuit for 18 years. After watching the first Gay Games in 1982, he **Sports** joined the San Francis-Complex co Track & Field Club in 1984.

On a team packed with sprint-ers, Mr. Demby struggled early on to make his mark, but through dedication and hard work, he gradually became one of the

team's top speed stars.

Mr. Demby competed in the 100 and 200 meters, and over the years added the 400 meters, as well as the shot put and discus, to his repertoire. He medaled at all four Gay Games he participated in (II, III, IV, and V), and was a part of several record-setting relay teams

Those who attended the 1994 New York Gay Games Closing Ceremonies in Yankee Stadium may recall Mr. Demby speaking as the sole male athlete to address the packed stadium.

packed stadium.

He considered it a great honor to be chosen to speak on behalf of the Gay Games and Dr. Tom Waddell's dream of gay athletics, which Mr. Demby personified throughout his track and field career. He took over coaching duties for the track club in 1991.

"His compassion and leader."

"His compassion and leader-ship abilities made his tenure as coach extremely successful," said Rick Thoman, a six-time Games medalist in track. "His enthusiasm and patience with athletes of all levels of ability endeared him to

newes of ability endeared nim to many on the team, particularly to newcomers seeking guidance."
"Frank was a motivation and an inspiration," noted SFT&FC member Patti Chang. Under Mr. Demby's coaching, Chang went on to medal at the Sydney Gay Games in her first-ever season as

a track athlete.

Mr. Demby's coaching style was soft-spoken, knowledgeable,

and layered with wit.

Mr. Demby's longtime relay teammate Mike Moorefield, said, "Frank gave the track team his all.
I'll always remember the calming
effect he had on me before any big
race I was involved in. He inspired

Sidelined by a heart attack in June 2002, Mr. Demby was unable to compete in Sydney, but he redi-rected his energy by volunteering to of-

Volunteering to of-ficiate at Gay Games VI. Both athletes and Gay Games officials fondly praised his contribu-tions to the Sydney Games. Sydney Gay Games track and field orga-nizer and competitor Stu Wilson, remem-

Stu Wilson remem-bered Mr. Demby as a "lovely man and a fierce competitor."

Wilson and Mr. Demby first Wilson and Mr. Demby first battled each other at the Vancou-ver Gay Games in 1990. "On be-half of the Sydney athletes who met Frank for the first time at the 2002 Games, and for all of us old fellas who held him in the highest esteem, we will always remember Frank and his warm, loving smile," said Wilson. "He was a tough competitor and I will never forget our competitiveness on the track and our genuine affection off the track."

'Bittersweet farewell'

Mr. Demby is also interviewed on the track section of the official Gay Games DVD. Records were broken and races in events won at many levels, with Bay Area ath-



Frank Demby in Sydney, November 2002

letes wearing the subtly symbolic cheetah pattern that graced the sides of their singlets, designed by Mr. Demby.

While in Sydney last November, in my last interview with him, Mr. Demby said he "couldn't have been more proud of a group than a mother could be." Of his several years of coaching for the team, he ironically called it, "my kind of swan song ... a bittersweet farewell."

Mr. Demby said he felt, "incredibly proud to carry the team to a notoriety that they've achieved over the past 20 years, to be one of the teams to beat. We had new people who were unsure of themselves. We told them, 'You have the power within yourself to do that' to be who they want to be.'"

As an official in Sydney, he said

As an official in Sydney, he said he felt happy, "to stand on the sidelines and hear other officials say, 'My gosh, look at that San Francisco team.' I got kind of get

teary-eyed."

It was what Mr. Demby called,



"the legacy of San Francisco, the talent the team has shown over

talent the team has shown over the years."

Plans for a memorial service are pending. The SFT&FC is ac-cepting donations for a scholar-ship to Gay Games VII in Mr. Demby's honor. For additional in-formation, go to the San Francis-co Track & Field Club Web site at www sftrackandfield ore

www.sftrackandfield.org.
(Thanks to SFT&FC's Rick
Thoman, who contributed quotes and information for this article.)

Oregon Trail

On the weekend of August 8-10, one of Frank Demby's friends and athletes with SFT&FC, Bay Area track star Reggie Snowden, competed in the U.S. National Masters Championships in Track and Field held in Eugene, Oregon.

In his first and only competiin his first and only competi-tion of the year thus far, he proud-ly represented San Francisco Frontrunners with three medals in all three of his events. He was able to capture three bronze medals for third place finishes in the 110 hurdles, triple jump, and also the long

jump.
This adds even more accomplishments to Snowden's many medals won at Gay Games VI in Sydney, and previous Games track

Snowden said that the event was well attended with several for-mer world-class track and field competitors in numerous events. Competitors ranged from sub-masters aged 30 and up, to out-standing athletes well into their 80s. While in Eugene, Snowden also visited the area where renowned running athlete Steve Prefontaine was killed in a car ac-

Masters, World, and U.S. Na-Masters, World, and U.S. National records were broken in quite a few events. For more results check out www.Eugenechamps.com. ▼

To send GLBT sports event info, e-mail: jimproven@yahoo.com. For previous articles, visit v.sportscomplex.org.

CA LGBT bills

◆ page 2

Governor Davis. Davis signed AB196, by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), last month. Leno's bill prohibits em-ployment and housing discrimi-nation on the basis of gender

Ration of the close stereotypes.

And Davis is also expected to sign AB205, by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angles), which gives domestic partners in California many of the rights and assemblishins as married cou responsibilities as married cou-ples. Once Davis signs the bill, which he pledged to do last month, California will be second only to Vermont in its extensive benefits offered to committed same-sex couples. Last week, after

more heated debate, the Assembly passed the final version of the bill, picking up two new supporters in the process; Assemblymen Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) and Simon Salinas (D-Salinas), both of whom voted no in June but voted in favor of the legislation on September 3. The bill is now officially on the governor's desk, and he is expected to sign it be-

fore the end of the month.

The only remaining LGBT bill is AB17, which like San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance, would require that most businesses that contract with the state to offer domestic partner benefits to employees equal to what they offer to married couples. AB17, by Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), is stuck in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and LGBT advocates are urging polite phone calls and letters to get the ball rolling. The legislative session ends this Friderick and the session ends the s day, September 12, so if no action is taken the bill will die in com-

For more information, visit www.eqca.org, or www.lamb-daletters.org.

Freewheelers

group goes on drives throughout the Bay Area on weekends and participates in other car shows alongside clubs composed mainly

alongside clubs composed mainly of straight men. "We are pretty well received," by other car clubs said Jackman. "We share a common interest: we are all about preservation of a great car and keeping it out of the junk yard and away from the crusher."

At the annual Friendship Day

gathering in Los Altos, Jackman said the car club has never had a

said the car club has never had a problem feeling welcomed.

"Most guys are okay with the fact we are gay. We are a good resource for each other, as far as parts and service," said Jackman. "We can share which shops we have taken our cars to to have work done and what is the outcome."

To celebrate the club's anniver-

done and what is the outcome."
To celebrate the club's anniver-sary, Jackman has invited the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, which is also in its 25th year, to perform at Sunday's show. He has also invited Harry Lit, Donna Sa-chet, Lenny Broberg, and Sandy

"Mama" Reinhardt, some of the community's hardest working fundraisers, to present specialty awards for such categories as best color, best display, and most po-

That award is for a car some one just bought and looks like crap but if they spend some time, money, and give it a little paint job, it will look fabulous," said

The car show will take place rom 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 14 in Collingwood Park at 19th and Collingwood streets. Admission is \$7. ▼

Stop AIDS

◄ page **17**

HIV prevention methods, as well as its federal funding, the agency is hoping the community will come out in force for this year's

come out in force for this year's gala to show its support and solidarity with Stop AIDS.

The event will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday, September 15 at Ruby Skye, 450 Mason Street in downtown San Francisco. It will feature performances by Conjic Champagne and Support Day nie Champagne and Spencer Day and will be hosted by the Ameri-can Conservatory Theater's Gre-gory Wallace. The evening will also include a silent auction, no-

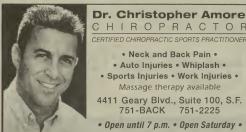
host bar and a light supper.

Those receiving awards this year are Tony Nguyen, who has worked for the past five years as an outreach worker and men's program supervisor for the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center and is the host/producer of Vietnamese Journal on KTSF Channel 26; Tracey Packer, a health educator with the HIV prevention section in the AIDS health educator with the HIV prevention section in the AIDS Office of the San Francisco Department of Public Health who serves as the community planning manager for the HIV prevention section and works with the HIV Prevention Planning Council; Lenny Broberg, a leader in the leather community who won the

1992 International Mr. Leather title and is a frequent emcee at countless charity events; and Dan Wohlfeiler, who led Stop AIDS throughout most of the 1990s and expanded the agency from its original outreach and one-session workshops model to include neighborhood organizing, video outreach, community forums, Q Action, and direct action. He now serves as chief of the policy and communications branch of the California Department of Health STD Control Branch and at the California STD/HIV Prevention

Training Center.
To purchase tickets, which start at \$100, call (415) 575-0150, ext.





Disability suits

■ page 1

ment to check out complaints.
"If we find them [businesses] "It we find them [businesses] out of compliance, we cite them [internally], write up a report, and pass them along to experts," he said. "The experts go out and survey and verify. Then we send the summons and complaint."

Louie said he is disabled and uses a wheelchip. His least the summons and complaint."

uses a wheelchair. His leg was am-

putated in 1996.

He also did time in prison, something he said he's not proud of, but doesn't try to hide. In 1968, he was convicted of interstate transport of counterfeit checks and served more than six years in

data served more than six years in federal prison.

Louie said that no one in his organization earns a salary, and that money won from settlements

is spent on expenses. "We had \$541,000 in expenses "We had \$541,000 in expenses last year," Louie said. "What we do with the money is pay for office space, computer systems, copy machines, and phone bills. No one makes a salary. The lawyers recovitheir money."

er their money."

The complaints allege that several of the Castro businesses have

ADA violations, including:
• Face It Salon, no accessible route into the business due to steps. There is one approximate 2 inch deep step leading into the fa-

• La Mediterranee, no accessi-ble route into the business due to steps. There is one approximate 4 inch step leading into the facility.

• Atelier Studio, no accessible

route into the business due to steps. There are approximately 10 steps leading into the facility. An employee at Atelier, who at-

tended the August MUMC meeting, declined to discuss the case

ing, declined to discuss the case and referred calls to his lawyer, who also declined comment.

David Wright, owner of La Mediterranee on Noe Street, told the B.A.R. that while they are working on a settlement, he feels the restaurant has been in compliance with the law.

"We have a portable range and

"We have a portable ramp and signage, and a button to push for assistance," Wright said, adding that he regularly serves disabled customers in his establishment. 'We certainly want to be accessible and certainly believe in the in-

ble and certainly believe in the in-tent of the law."

In Louie's lawsuit against the restaurant, a photo is included with the complaint showing the front step. The picture appears to have been taken at night, as the "closed" sign is visible in the door and the flash is reflected in the

window. A blue handicap access decal is also visible in the photo. Wright said he's in the process of getting the necessary city per-mits to install a ramp and door

Daryl Ducharme, who runs Prism, told the B.A.R. that his business was also the subject of a lawsuit, but that Louie had served the owner of the building, who in turn passed the suit on to Ducharme through a provision in the lease. Ducharme, who said he is legally disabled, as are about six of his employees, does have a portable ramp that is brought out when disabled customers call. "We do have an access ramp," Ducharme said.

Attorney Courtney Coates, with the San Francisco firm Hanson-Bridgett, specializes in ADA lawsuits and is representing Ducharme, Face It, and Bauer

Ware. He told the B.A.R. that he is representing defendants in about 20 cases in the city.

"Anyone can look at these law-

suits filed en masse and it seems

suits filed en masse and it seems like there's some other agenda that should be addressed by the courts," Coates said.

To that end, he said he is considering having the cases heard together by a single judge. As it stands now, the federal court system assigns cases to judges based on a lottery system, and in fact, the lawsuits filed against the Castrobusinesses are assigned to sev-

tro businesses are assigned to several different judges.

"It seems the most efficient,"
Coates said of possibly combining the cases, "It would save the court time and money.'

Coates is familiar with Louie, and worked on one other case involving him, which resulted in a settlement.

Castro facelift

◀ page 12

"The idea got put on the back burner," said Costa. It wasn't until three months ago, after an article appeared in the Bay Area Reporter which quot-ed Dufty saying there was demand for a shoe store in the Castro, that the two seriously pursued finding

a location.
"I could handle starting a shoe "I could handle starting a shoe store and it failing. I can't handle seeing someone else open up a shoe store and being successful," Costa explained about the push to open the store.

The shop will cater to both men and women and is set to have an urban, clean look and feel. They have already entered into

They have already entered into agreements to carry Kenneth Cole, Steve Madden, Palladium, Tsubo, and Camper shoes, with prices ranging from \$75 to \$125.

prices ranging from \$75 to \$125.
The partners are beginning construction on the 1,050 square foot space this month. Once completed, the new store will have a clear glass front window to allow passersby to window shop. They hope to be open by November 1.
"I don't think there are enough shop stores. There should be one.

shoe stores. There should be one on every corner," enthused Costa, who formerly worked in fashion

With his current two-story location on 18th Street marked to be remodeled into housing with ground floor retail, Peter Kane

needed to find a new store space to relocate Body, which he has operated since 1991.

Kane, who also owns the clothing store Citizen, landed the lease at 450 Castro, site of the former Rolo store that closed earlier this summer. The move will increase his store size from 1,000 to 1,700 square feet and enable Kane to expand his selection.

The athletic clothing store cur-

The athletic clothing store currently sells apparel by Adidas, New Balance, and Speedo. Once Kane completes the move, scheduled for mid-October, he will expand into carrying clothing by Hurley, Quicksilver, Nike, and Volcum.

"It is going to be a great move. We will be on one level and it is twice as big so there will be more selection with new lines, and I can expand what I am doing now." he

expand what I am doing now," he said.

And he said his customer base can only get better with having people walking down Castro and

coming off Muni.

"It is a positive change I hope," said Kane. "It kind of worked out

great."
October will also mark the opening of Nickel Spa at 2187
Market Street on the corner of 15th Street. It is the third location for the men's only spa, founded by openly gay Philippe Dumont, which already has opened in New

York and Paris.

Before it even opens its doors on October 1 the San Francisco locale is booked solid its first two weeks. Managing partner Eric

Ruimy, who calls himself a metrosexual, said he wanted to open his own spa after going in for a treat-ment in New York.

ment in New York.

"I was blown away by the look, atmosphere, and feel," said Ruimy, a former jewelry store owner. "This was something I could bring to the Castro. It is a new look for the city. There is a new generation of new men in the Castro who wants to take care of himself. It really felt right for the Castro."

While the spa's main market will be the gay community, Ruimy

will be the gay community, Ruimy also hopes to attract straight men. He stressed the spa will be a com-fortable environment that is non-

sexual.

"We are very realistic that our major clientele is going to be the gay community. That is definitely what we are catering to," he said. "We don't have one single men's only spa in the city. We have things that offer services for men, but not only for men."

Nickel in French means pure release and the suys' image is of a

or clean and the spa's image is of a very clean and sturdy look. Its signature color is a cobalt blue, which adds to that image. The spa will offer facials, body

scrubs, and massages ranging from traditional Swedish massage or deep tissue to Zen massage, which will be done in a more earthy kind of environment.

"It is a warmer room than some of our other rooms," explained Ruimy. "It is done on mats instead

the traditional massage bed." He is hard at work putting the

finishing touches on the 3,000 square foot space. He is also in the process of hiring masseurs and es-

process of hiring masseurs and estheticians, who should apply via e-mail at info@nickelspa.com.

The spa will offer a basic massage for \$80 to a full massage package costing \$165, facials will run \$85, and body scrubs will cost \$125. Ruimy said he will also offer a lunch time special consisting of a chair massage with pedicure and manicure for \$55.

The spa also carries its own product line under the Nickel name. Items include a morning after rescue gel priced at \$40 for 2.6 ounces, body scrubs at \$26 for 8.9 ounces and facial scrubs at \$26 for 4.5 ounces.

6.9 ounces.

"Our products actually have been in the top three of Europe for the last four years," said Ruimy.

If the buzz over the last six

months surrounding the spa's

opening is any indication, Nickel should be a runaway success. "It has been phenomenal, ab-solutely," said Ruimy. "It is more than I ever expected."

As Dufty moves this fall to im-plement the first phase of his Cas-tro Renaissance, he will hold a community meeting in two weeks to discuss ideas for improving the streetscape in the Castro, from new street furniture and tree beds to community bulletin boards and to community bulletin boards and pedestal news racks. Other ideas include expanding the sidewalks and readdressing the renovation of Harvey Milk Plaza.

The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 22 at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy at the corner of 19th and Collingwood Streets. Plans can be viewed

wood Streets. Plans can be view online at www.sfdpw.com. ▼

Guest Opinion

◀ page **6**

quency in urban school districts. SFUSD is currently comprised of 89 percent students of color with only 44 percent teachers of color. Nearly one-third of all students are deficient in the English lan-guage. We know that there are sig-nificant racial and ethnic disparities in graduation rates, disciplinary rates and rates of dropout and expulsion in the SFUSD. while African American students make up only 16 percent of the student body, they account for more than 50 percent of all expulsions. We know all of this due to our ability to collect and evaluate data of race and ethnicity. From this data, the SFUSD has made a comprehensive commitment to racial equality and has continued to create new and expand existing programs to address these inci-dences of inequality due to race or ethnicity. It is critical to the well-being of our young people and the

advancement of our community that we address this problem. Proposition 54 must be stopped on October 7. Each one of the initiatives in this series of the initiatives in this series of statewide propositions (Proposi-tions 187, 209, 22, and now 54) chip away at the civil rights of one or more minority groups in Cali-fornia. The net effect is that they diminish the basic human rights of all Californians and will ultimate-ly undermine that which makes California the most prosperous, interesting and diverse state in the United States. Please join the Alice
B. Toklas and Harvey Milk LGBT
Democratic clubs in voting no on
Proposition 54. Vote no for our
health, our right to be employed,
our civil rights, our safety, our childen and the feture dren, and our future.

Robert Haaland is president of the Harvey Milk LGBT the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Rich Kowalewski and Theresa Sparks are co-chairs of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

Our Man Friday

■ page **15**

leading in polls in the party's first two contests – the New Hampshire primary and the Iowa caucuses in January – not only are the other Democrats finding themselves playing catch-up politics to the former Vermont governor, but Re-publican Party officials and politi-cal advisers to Bush are admitting



Presidential hopeful Howard Dean at Yerba Buena Gardens on Sat.

that they, too, have underestimated Dean and now say that they consider him a "formidable potential adversary." Only two months ago, Karl Rove, Bush's top political guru, was watching Dean supporters at a July 4 parade in Washington, and said, "That's the one we want." Few Republicans are cheering now, however, as Dean's fundraising, his rise in the polls, and his attacks on the Bush administration have apparently revised opinions of GOP operatives. President Bush's call Sunday night for help from the United Nations in peacekeeping and rethat they, too, have underestimat-

night for help from the United Nations in peacekeeping and re-construction efforts in Iraq was called long overdue by both De-mocrats and Republicans in Con-gress. U.S. Senator **Dianne Fein-stein** (D-California): "It's long overdue ... it's clear we suited up for the war but not for the peace; this needs to be a multinational this needs to be a multinational effort." Senator John McCain (R-Arizona): "The effort to get international help is a 'tacit admission' that we don't have the forces there to get the job done ... if we don't turn things around in the next few months, we are facing a very seri-ous long term problem." Since President Bush landed

on the USS Abraham Lincoln May on the USS Abraham Lincoln May 1 and declared victory in Iraq's "major combat operations," more American soldiers have been killed than during the war itself. From the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico comes word that Senator Dergio Pena Clos has introduced a motion to prohibit gay.

duced a motion to prohibit gay and lesbian marriages. The motion to change the constitution must be approved by both the local Congress and the governor before being decided by an islandwide referendum. Senator Pena said he was worried that the demise of antisodomy laws in the mainland U.S. will open the door to same-sex marriage in Puerto

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" comes from a 1990 profile of Arnold Schwarzenegger that appeared in U.S. News & World" ort in which the "Terminator" elaborated on his nascent political views. Schwarzenegger: "My relaviews. Schwarzenegger: "My rela-tionship to power and authority is that I'm all for it. People need somebody to watch over them; 95 percent of the people in the world need to be told what to do and how to behave."

And how was your week? ▼

Robert Noel

■ page 11

Knoller had represented both prisoners and represented both prisoners and corrections officers. The couple's adopted prisoner son, Paul Schneider, is a member of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. The decision was made to keep Knoller incarcerated in Cali-

keep Knoller incarcerated in Cali-fornia because, Bach explained, vi-olence is rare in the state's women's prisons.

Schneider pleaded guilty last week to drug smuggling charges and to ordering a robbery eight years ago that resulted in the mur-der of a Sonoma County Sheriff's deputy. Noel and Knoller have maintained that Schneider and his

former cellmate, Dale Bretches, were the owners of the two dogs involved in the mauling of Whip-ple and that they were the dogs caretakers.

The San Francisco dog-mauling case, as it became known in the national media, will have a lasting impact on gay rights in California. In the spotlight of the public attention generated by the case, Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, successfully lobbied for domestic partner legislation. She also became the first person in California that was allowed to sue for the wrongful death of a same-sex partner. Smith now lives in Marin County with her new partner. She and her partner are pregnant with ing case, as it became known in and her partner are pregnant with due dates in the fall. ▼

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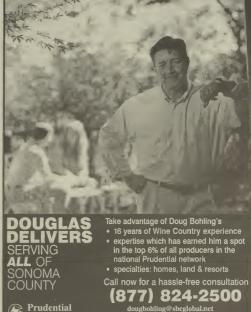
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Santa Rosa very nice remodeled 2bd 1 b mble home on horse ranch. Priva-cy view convenient to town. Covered deck, large yard, \$875. Pet/Horse negot. 707-528-8968.

LEGAL NOTICES

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee. 1 Dr. Carlton B.

Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689, Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sigov.org/bedsupvrs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Urban Forestry Council
The Urban Forestry Council shall be comprised of 15 total members 8 of whom will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors as follows: one representative of the University of California Coperative Extension or a representative of another deductional organization involved with tree managements one representative of the tree management professions one representative of the Golden
Gate National Recreation Areas two representatives of one-profit organizations involved in urban
forestry or other environmentally-related usues; and three representatives of the community.

Vacant Seat 8, new appointment, must be a representative of the Colden Gate National Recreation Area, for a two-year term ending April 5, 2005;

Vacant Seat 8, must be a representative of the community for the unexpired portion of a two-year
term ending April 5, 2005.

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (SFLAFCO)
LAFCO is scheduled to hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Friday. October 3, 2003, in the
Committee Room 263, Ciry Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place on the R. W. Beck Draft Report on the Electric Financial Feasibility Study.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff, 1669 Mission Street, Rm. 2001, Noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring your lunch: coffee and other drinks will be provided.

September 18, 2003 The Process for Enforcement of Codes and Abatement by Department of Building Inspection

Department of Building Inspection staff

NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials hand our, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Div. at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

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STATEMENT FILE 0269158-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Medicann. 72 Sanchez Street. #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph Erich Person. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name or names on August 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/13/2003 Ca. on 08/13/2003 AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269186-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Four Star Video. 402 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a business trust signed David M. Ayoob. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2003 08/14/2003 AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269188-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269188-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Wideo Oasis, 439 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a business trust signed David M. Ayoob. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2003.

08/14/2003 AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003 STATEMENT FILE 0269192-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269192-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Sound Construction. 4523 Irving Street. #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert Camusus White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2003 on 08/14/2003 AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269155-00 STATEMENT FILE D269130-500 The following person(s) are doing business as:EI Farolito Bar. 2777 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Salvador Lopez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/13/2003 AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268904-00 STATEMENT FILE 0268904-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as:TravelSearch.com. 853 Arguello Blvd.
San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Charles
M. Brossman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
August 4, 2003. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Cann. 08/04/2003 Ca. on 08/04/2003 AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269280-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269/280-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Slim's 333 11th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Dawn Holliday, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 16, 1988. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/19/2003

08/19/2003 AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 2002-0261176-

NAME. FILE NU: 2000

On The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: El Farolito Bar. Located at: 2777 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business was conducted by a corporation signed Salvador Lopez, presidnet. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco and Sentember 26, 2002. AUG. 21, 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269320-00 51A1 EIMENT ITLE 0269520-00. The following person(s) are doing business as. Evendaat. 37 Moss Street Apt. #A, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed. David A, Caraker and Nathaniel U, Weber. David A, Caraker and Nathaniel U, Weber. Sold of the street of the st San Francisco, Ca. on 08/20/2003 AUG. 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268830-00 The following person(s) are doing business as Tosick Home Improvement. 2392.48th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual-signed John F. Tosick. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 31, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/312/003. Francisco, Ca. on 08/31/2003. AUG. 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269417-00 STATEMENT FILE 026941/-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Personal Touch Electrology. 4105 19th Street @ Castro, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Terri Allse Long. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/25/2003.

AUG. 28, SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269387-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:Caprock Drill Design. 2049 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian Keith Leadingham. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 01,2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/27/2003. SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-CISCO FILE NO CNC-03-540917

CISCO FILE NO CNC-03-540917
In the Matter of the Application of Syuzan Igorewa Volnickaya and Viktor Daniel Igorewich Volynskiy For change of Name. The application of Syuzan Igorewa Volynskay and Viktor Daniel Igorewa Volynskay for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Syuzan Igorewa Volynskaya and Viktor Daniel Igorewich Volynskiy has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Susan Volinski and Daniel Volinski. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of Nowember at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. name should not be granted. SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269741-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269/f4-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Tasty Curry. 1375- 9th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed lhitesham-Ul-Haq. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictilious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on noy08/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269550-00 THE INTERN FILE 0269550-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:San Francisco Literary Tours. 2355 Leavenworth Street #101, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott Lettieri. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2003. Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269608-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269608-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:San Francisco Center For The Book: 300 DeHaro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a Non-Profit Corporation signed Kathy Barr, Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/03/2003. Ca. on 09/03/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268999-00 STATEMENT FILE 0268999-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cuccl. 80 Carryon Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a individual signed Timothy John O'Neill.
The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictiblous business name or names on August 07, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on. 08807/2003. 08/07/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269542-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269542-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Trenton & Co. 555 De Haro Street
#222, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a individual signed Mathias Trent. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/28/2003. Ca. on 08/28/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, 0CT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269597-00 STATEMENT FILE 0269597-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:Mi Lindo Yucatan. 401 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a individual signed Jorge A. Gongora. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 900/2/2013 09/02/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269593-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:Emile's Towing. 2230- 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is San Francisco, Ca. 74-L1D. Into business is conducted by a general partnership signed Emile Ferreboeuf and Marie Laure Ferre-boeuf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on Septem-ber O2, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/02/2003. SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(§) is. Avila, Milton Enrique and Duarte, Hilda Yesenia. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for: 41-0N SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE SEPT. 11, 18, 25, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265088-00 The following person(s) are doing business as:Don Quiques Restaurant. 1550 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94/03. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Milton Enrique Avuil and Hilda Yesenia Duarte. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/30/6/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003



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Global rhythms

Composer Marcel Khalife plays SF World Music Fest. page 30



Emerging folklore Hanifah Walidah's 'Black Folks' in SF Int'l Arts Fest. page 30



BAYA REA REPORTER ARTS& ENTERTAIN

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Suffragette city

Hooray for Susan B. Anthony in SF Opera's The Mother of Us All



Exploring The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci at Berkeley Rep

Renaissance

by Richard Dodds

eonardo da Vinci loved the world and liked men. He eonardo da Vinci loved the world and liked men. He seems to have had little problem with that, and if his contemporaries sometimes had a problem with his preferences, his genius provided him with, literally and figuratively, a get-out-jail-free card.

"He had a charge of sodomy anonymously brought against him when he was 18," said Mary Zimmerman, creator of The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci at Berkeley Rep. Charges were dismissed "because he was so talented even then."

even then."

Notebooks, a 90-minute performance piece, takes its text entirely from Leonardo's personal writings and jottings, from detailed scientific explorations to philosophical musings to everyday shopping lists.

"Theses are not diaries and are not particularly revelatory except in elliptical ways," said Zimmerman. But she is reading between the lines to illustrate these passages. Action and text are layered upon each other in Zimmerman's highly visual manner. Metamorphoses, for which she won the 2003 Tony, was Ovid set in an onstage pool.

2003 Tony, was Ovid set in an onstage pool. Recently seen in New York, *Notebooks* is a revised ver-

sion of the 1993 production seen at Lookingglass, Zimmerman's home theater in Chicago. "The question about his sexuality in this production is interesting," she said during a rehearsal break on the day of the first preview. "There's a section with lines about the relationship between the lover and the loved. In the original production, it was a man and woman who did this little scene, and when we did this production, I said why don't I go ahead and make it a boy. It really changes it."

In the new production, Zimmerman also wanted to put more emphasis on "this sort of embedded storyline" about the 30-year relationship between Leonardo and his much younger protégé, nicknamed Salai.

"Without a doubt, 'Salai was his lover at a certain point," Zimmerman said, "and there are little moments in the notebooks that seem to express jealousy about Salai's hanging out with the men of the Swiss Guard, whose character Leonardo disapproved of because they shoot birds for sport, and he hates that." Among the more everyday elements of the notebooks are his shopping lists, including how much he spent on Salai for his clothing. "It seems to be this marginal record of his great desire for this guy

page 32

Welcome to the isle of manly beauty

Civilized behavior, fabulous breeding pay off for arts-lovers

by Roberto Friedman

e've been having unusual fever dreams that have manly if high-voiced native Bay Arean actor **Rider Strong** featured prominently in them. Perhaps it's because we've been staring at the set of press-kit photos from his new horror flick, *Cabin Feuer*. In a word' Yun. Recently as Fever. In a word: Yum. Recently, as a first act, Strong bedded international-supermodel-of-a-certainage **Jerry Hall** live, nude, onstage in *The Graduate*. His second act is in The Graduate. His second act is apparently starring as the tastiest morsel for the flesh-eating monster du jour in film. In countless features infesting the daily press, we've been drinking in the Strong family lore, rife as it is with real men's men with names like **King** and **Chief**. Out There has al-

ways had a strange fascina-tion with men who have these sort of names, so slap us.

It looks to be that sort of fall, always the best season in San Francisco and certainly full of strong enticements.

Just now, SF's weirdly cultivated class of socialites **Out There** are giving their
well-heeled footsies a much-needed soak after last "hell week" of
season openers and first nights.
Out There finally bit the bullet

and spent a bucketful of buckshot to acquire a vintage tux from a charming Haight boutique, having given the togs-rental shop on our street more than an occasion-



Rider Strong and Jordan Ladd in Cabin Fever

al draft on our salary over the years. Whilst ashmooze in the press room before the SF

Symphony opening gala last Wednesday night, we were suddenly we were suddenly pinned with a boutonniere by the Whistler: one single, perfect red rose, placed just so on our mobstere lapel (thanks, Tweets).

The unintended consequence of wearing this bou-is that matronly

tonniere was that matronly women in magnificent, shiny dresses kept coming up to us dur-ing intermission and asking where the pay phones and ladies room were. We looked like we should know how to show them to their

seats, but truly, we didn't.
OT got the impression that

many in the audience, glamorous and well-socialized though they were, and no doubt generous in their support of the Symphony, were not frequent sippers at the musical font that is Davies Hall. This impression was confirmed during the Tchaikovsky piano concerto, which was applauded wildly both after the first movement and at finale. Pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet was, as usual, ebullient and charismatic, and it was wonderful to see him leap up was wonderful to see him leap up and give maestro Michael Tilson

Thomas a big old gay smooth during ovations.

Then there was the now-legendary False Alarm during The Firebird Suite, when, just at the close of the movement and before MTT could launch into the finale, some unknown psycho pulled the Second Floor fire alarm, and sud-denly Davies was awash with strobe lights, sirens, and directives from a weird, disembodied robot voice that only made the situation

To the eternal credit of the civ-To the eternal credit of the civilized crowd, no one panicked or stampeded, the crowd moved swiftly to vacate the premises, and we rendezvoused with our suddenly animated colleagues in the press outside the Green Room. MTT wanted to corral the orchestra and finish the piece, an idea that was quickly squelched by



Markus Linnenbrink installing his painting at Kunstmuseum Bonn, 2003

management, citing sky-high overtime costs. So there was nothing to do but to party it up with our symphony pals, and graze the considerable bounties at after-affairs in the Light Courts of City Hall and the swanky jazz-lounge digs of the Grove St. tent erection.

Thursday's child

Taking our stamina pills, the very next night we attended another rite of autumn, the first First other rite of autumn, the first First Thursday night of the season, wherein such blue-chip gallery owners as Paule Anglim and Rena Bransten keep their doors open late so you can go see what's on offer.

The art-gallery mother lode at The art-gallery mother lode at 49 Geary was hopping as usual, home to stimulating exhibitions of contemporary art, including but not limited to German artist Markus Linnenbrink's visually tangy, layered paintings at Patricia Sweetow Gallery, and Travis Somerville's barn-stormin' Americana collages in More Songs of the South at Catharine Clark Gallery, with a William Kentridge video playing in a side gallery there that with a William Kentridge video playing in a side gallery there that we'll have to go back to see when it's not quite as packed.

OT segued from sizzling-hot (John Bankston's Wild West

cowboys at Bransten; The Eye Club, a 25th anniversary show at Club, a 25th anniversary show at Fraenkel Gallery) to charming boho galleries in little, tucked-away garrets off Union Square. First Thurs. is a great populist event of many years' standing. Though the prices for art are steep, the price is right for the visit the open thurst to see art. visit, the opportunity to see art,



Killer Joe Piro, Dance Teacher, New York City, by Richard Avedon, 1962

and the wine: free. It's the kind of civilized fun that makes you glad to be a San Franciscan.

Press front

Well now, the only problem with disgraced former NY Times writer Rick Brayg getting a book contract to write the authorized bio of Fox news hero Saving Private Jessica Lynch is that Lynch says she can't remember a blessed thing from her ordeal! The memoirs of from her ordea!! The memoirs of an amnesiac: truly a new frontier for trade publishing in the brave new world. We wonder whether Bragg will send a stringer out to West Virginia to file the story for him while he knocks back oyster shooters at the Palm with Knopf president Sonny Mehta.

Comediennes, file under 'L' Funny lady Lily Tomlin per-



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Secret admirers

'Sleeping with Straight Men' at Rhino

by Richard Dodds

few months ago, Ronnie Larsen's Cocksucker: A Love Story closed out the 2002-03 season at Theatre Rhino. Now his Sleeping with Straight Men is opening the 2003-04 season. And between the two, he managed to squeeze in a couple of weeks of Making Porn.

If Theatre Rhino sometimes feels as if it's becoming Theatre Ronnie, at the very least Larsen knows how to entertain an audience. And usually there are thoughtful passages to be found, if briefly, mixed in with the comedy and nudity — and, lately, the

edy and nudity - and, lately, the

tragedy.
That's the case with Sleeping with Straight Men, an 80-minute play that had its premiere last year in Rhino's Studio. The production then headed to New York for an off-Broadway run that reportedly had major personality clashes. Now the play is back for a mainstage run at Rhino with a mostly new cast that knows how to connect with the material.

Larsen found his premise for

Larsen found his premise for Straight Men from the murder that followed a "secret admirer" episode of *The Jenny Jones Show.* The subject of that admiration was a straight man who felt ridiculed when his ardent fan turned out to be gay. For the play, Larsen has created a fic-tionalized homelife for the two men, as well as providing sharp satire of exploitation television.

In the new production, it's Octavio Saez de Ibarra playing Stanley, an amiable loser who lives with his mother in a trailer park, dreams of California, and lives with his mother in a trailer park, dreams of California, and lives to suck straight dick. Stanley is a variation on the character de Ibarra played in Cocksucker, and once again he is wonderfully in tune with Larsen's style and rhythms. As the object of Stanley's longings, Jeffrey Lippold effectively creates a handsome, slightly dense character with a spectacular body that is amply displayed.

Dan Renzi, back from the original production, now gets sole above-the-title billing for his hilariously bitch-queen performance as the talk show's costume and makeup man. The other returnee, Sister Roma, plays Stanley's drag-queen friend with a gentle, unpolished grace. Patricia Rose as the talk-show host, Miranda Calderon as her assistant, and Allision Smith as

host, Miranda Calderon as her assistant, and Allison Smith as the straight guy's girlfriend are all up to their assignments.

Where the play falters is in its depiction of the aftermath of the homophobic violence. The culpability of the talk-show team is dispensed with in a few words, and an abrust ending with a and an abrupt ending with a quick plea for tolerance seems more convenient than honest. But Sleeping remains a generally enjoyable return visit to Theatre Ronnie.

Sleeping with Straight Men will run at Theatre Rhinoceros through Oct. 4. Tickets are \$20-\$30, Call 861-5079.







The dancers are the stars of 42nd Street, true to a tap-happy vision

Happy feet

Tapping to '42nd Street'

by Richard Dodds

f there is such a thing as major and minor keys in choreogra-phy, the closed-in, angular steps of Bob Fosse would epito-mize the latter, while the exuber-ant, wide-open moves of Gower Champion exemplify dance in a ant, wide-open moves of Gower Champion exemplify dance in a major key. The culmination of the Champion style came in 42nd Street, and while he died on the opening night of the original Broadway production 23 years ago, that spirit remains alive and well in the touring revival now at the Golden Gate Theatre.

Although technically a book

Although technically a book musical based on the old Warner musical based on the old Warner Bros. movie about a chorus girl who becomes an overnight Broadway star, 42nd Street eagerly ditches its wobbly plot for the uncomplicated pleasures of songand-dance at every opportunity. At one point, one of the characters says that "musical comedy" are the most glorious words in the are the most glorious words in the English language, and it can seem so when 40 dancers are channel-ing the frenetic joy that Champi-on built into his moves.

The producers wisely chose not to skimp when populating the show, but it looks like the money for that was found by whacking away at the scenery. While the local ads for the show depict the dancers descending a stage-wide staircase at the finale, here they do their stuff on a barren stage. The scene still works, but not quite so

excitingly.

The dancers really are the stars of 42nd Street, but there is that plot that must be observed. Catherine Wreford, of Flockhart-

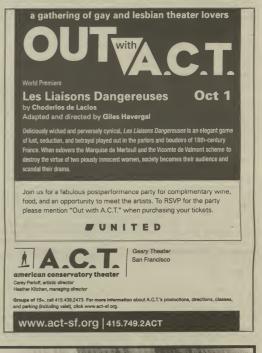
plot that must be observed. Catherine Wreford, of Flockhartian thinness, plays Peggy Sawyer, the wannabe chorus girl just off the bus from Allentown, Pa. She's not quite the "looker" that the other characters carry on about, but she's engagingly waifish, and she certainly can dance.

Darren Kelly is appropriately gruff and slightly tormented as the Broadway director of the show within the show, but Marcy McGuigan goes too close to the edge of caricature as the demanding star of that show. The charismatic David Elder, who created the role of Billy Lawlor in the Broadway revival, is here for at least part of the SF run.

Mark Bramble is now billed with the late Michael Stewart for providing the libretto for the musical, but on the 1980 production they were credited more honestly for their "lead-ins and crossovers."

sical, but on the 1980 production they were credited more honestly for their "lead-ins and crossovers." But Bramble has done a good job as the new director, and Randy Skinner's variations on the original choreography remain true to Champion's tap-happy vision.

42nd Street will run at the Golden Gate Theatre through Sept. 28. Tickets are \$34-\$77. Call 512-7770 or go to www.bestofbroadway-sf.com.





Starting off with a bang

Unusual happenings at Symphony opening gala

by Philip Campbell

he San Francisco Symphony's 92nd season opened last Wednesday with some old traditions and a decidedly unexpected finale. If it hadn't been for the unplanned surprise, it might have been only one green lease. the unplanned surprise, it might have been only one more pleas-antly forgettable evening of schmoozing, boozing and cruis-ing. With the added twist, howev-er, it turned out to be not only a memorable Gala, but also a par-ticularly civil and gracious affair. The audience, a sea of black-and-white formalwear, prome-naded the hall after sumptuous dinners served by local star chefs.

naded the hall after sumptuous dinners served by local star chefs in the North and South Light Courts of City Hall and the Louise M. Davies Tent in the parking lot. Free champagne and wine was prominently offered everywhere throughout the evening.

ever ing.

A noticeably younger assembly than usual crowded the stairways and upper tiers, looking chic and happy. Music Director Michael happy. Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas deserves the credit for bringing new faces to Davies Hall, and it bodes well for the fu-

The first thing that we noticed on entering the auditorium was a huge net filled with red, white and green balloons. The balloon drops feet valuous. The balloon drops have been conspicuously absent for years, but they are always fun, even if stray orbs often drifted down throughout the first part of the concert. Some audience members seemed inordinately fascinated, but at least they refrained from

popping them.

The usual hyper-enthusiasm accompanied the National Anthem, and there was some distracting applause after the first movement of the guest artist's concerto performance, but Symphony crowds are generally polite, and no one could have been seriously offended.

ously offended.

As an opener for an all-Russian program, Tchaikovsky's Coronation March proved suitably rousing. French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet appeared next to give a surprisingly lumpy rendition of the same composer's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor.

Thibaudet can be foreignen any

Thibaudet can be forgiven an off night. His previous concerts at Davies have always been exceptional. A few clunkers and some odd pacing in the first movement

odd pacing in the first movement led to a poetic and serene Andantino, and the fiery conclusion thrilled the enthusiastic patrons. Even a slightly extended intermission whirled by amid the glamour of people-watching and cocktail chatter. The second half of the bill seemed destined to be more substantial.

Stravinsky is a signature com-

poser for MTT, and he had wisely chosen the gorgeous *Suite from The Firebird* to balance the program. As an unscheduled treat, or tongue-in-cheek bonus, our witty maestro first turned to the audience and delivered one of his pithy, amusing monologues about a piece of music he felt the opening-night glitterati might appreci-

The Iron Foundry by former Soviet composer Alexander Mossolof blasted forth with some obviously well-rehearsed precision. The joke, or whatever it was meant to be, actually sounded rather exciting. MTT has the wit to play around with the often-

to play around with the often-questionable taste of opening-night audiences. If he was being sarcastic, it backfired delightfully. The Firebird was moving along beautifully, certainly the musical highlight of the evening, when the unexpected happened. Lights

flashed around the perimeter of the hall, and a mechanical voice

the hall, and a mechanical voice announced the presence of a fire threat in the building.

Everyone took a few seconds to absorb the reality of the statement and the request for audience members to calmly evacuate the premises. Even without the balloon drop or a big finish for the orchestra, there was still hearty applause as the capacity crowd courteously and good-naturedly left the building by the fire stairs.

Clustered on the sidewalk, it

left the building by the fire stars.
Clustered on the sidewalk, it
became fairly apparent that the
fire threat was probably a false
alarm, and everyone shrugged it
off by heading to City Hall for the
post-concert festivities.
There was more food than
years past, and the decor (all scarlet and black) was suitably grand.
Music streamed from the courts,
and the crowd moyed happily

and the crowd moved happily



Pianist Thibaudet still thrilled.

A final visit to the tent pavilion round a mellow nightcap to an enchanting evening. A small combo played Bossa Nova while friendly bartenders poured generous drinks and waiters served

ous drinks and waiters served desserts and delicacies.

Opening nights can often seem like a pleasant chore before the season can really get moving. This year was a happy affirmation of the taste and cordiality of the SFS. ▼

Mother of Us All

■ Arts cover

My theory of what happens with this piece is that Stein, commissioned to write a second libertto for Thomson, was ill at the time and, after having employed her usual deconstruction of language in the first how, realized guage in the first hour, realized she had better get to the point— which she does magnificently. Using the words of Susan B. An-thony, who is Stein's surrogate in Mother, the librettist suddenly produces a powerful polemic against discrimination — specifically of women and Negroes; implicitly of homosexuals — that never turns preachy, boring, or easily dismissed. Susan B.'s final aria, "In my

long life," is a "Liebestod" (love death) in the grand, time-honored Wagnerian tradition. The beautiful hymn tune that Thom-

"THUMBS UP!"

"PERVERSELY FASCINATING."

son created guarantees that this is one modern opera (1947) you will leave singing the music, not the scenery. "In my long life" re-minds me of the finales of *The* minds me of the finales of 1 he Makropoulos Case and Dialogues of the Carmelites, where you sit through a talky three-hour opera wondering why you are not home in bed, only to be rewarded with such a flood of emotional music at the end that you are glad you

Luana DeVol (Susan B.) has not sung in the War Memorial since she was a last-minute substitute in *Ariadne auf Naxos* exactly 20 years ago. Since then, she has made a substantial career in major European houses, singing Strauss and Wagner at Bayreuth, Vienna, Paris, Salzburg. It's an unusual voice that seems capable of everything from Wagnerian war cries to tender lullabies, both of

cries to tender Iullabies, both of which are contained in the part of Susan B. Unlike some of her recent predecessors, DeVol is audible in every part of her voice, and her diction is perfect.

A tall, imposing figure with exactly the kind of "period" bosoms that were made for the black bombazine dresses of the time, DeVol moves with natural regali-DeVol moves with natural regali-DeVol moves with natural regali-ty and confidence. Her gestures are spare but telling. Although Susan B. is laden with serious cares and a daunting mission, DeVol recognized the humor which dusts the score and text like sprinkles on an ice cream cone. And when it came to that final Wagnerian scene, where Anthony is literally a singing statue, DeVol mined the pathos of the resigned, lonely figure with softly registered high notes and expression

lovelorn participant in their rela-tionship. Anne would obviously like to take this tender compan-ionship to another level, but Susan B. (who was an unmarried woman, but not necessarily a lesbian) is too fixated on her politi-

This delicate homosexual inference is enhanced by the explicit romantic behavior of the other characters. For an opera that is not



Luana DeVol, as Susan B. Anthony, seemed capable of everything

Tender buttons

Because Stein and Thomson were openly gay, the score's subtext is a no-brainer for Christopher Alden's pitch-perfect production, lusty without being vulgar. He sees Susan B.'s companion, Anne (Stephanie Novacek), as the loveless restrictions it their sale. cal agenda to respond, leaving Anne sad but loyal. Angel More (Anna Christy, complete with wings and a piping soprano); his death scene in her arms was both funny and poignant. John Adams (the President, not the composer) is in love with Constance Fletcher (elegant Wendy Hill). John Duykers (Adams) was not recognizable under all the facial spinach until he typically cracked a couple of high notes. The "romance" that gets the most face time is between Jo the Loiterer (dishy tenor Jeffrey Lentz) and Indiana Elliott (Beth Clayton). Jo can't vote because he is a "loiterer," and he sings a wistful scene about it with Susan B. At the wedding melee that ends Act I, Alden has Jo and Indiana

overtly about sex, there are three

complicated entanglements, plus the frisky appearance of busty Lil-lian Russell (Dana Beth Miller).

Susan B.'s political antagonist, Daniel Webster (Jeffrey Wells), is

obsessed with a character named Angel More (Anna Christy, com-

humping hysterically, but because there is so much going on and everybody is in formal white, it's funny rather than coarse. The fact that Indiana will not take his name occasions meditations on of the marriage institution.
Umpteen kids later, Jo's unsatisfactory wife finally changes her name to "Indiana Loiterer."

name to "Indiana Loiterer."
Other standouts in the generally superb cast include Judith Christin (the perfect Gertrude S.), Beau Palmer (looking just like epicene Virgil T.), mezzo Jill Grove (Jenny Reefer) and Oren Gradus (a more-than-slightly nuts Ulysses S. Grant). Donald Runnicles produced one of his Runnicles produced one of his best conducting jobs, in which all the strands of Thomson's trans-parent chamber orchestration were clear, yet plenty of vigorous noise and momentum ensued. The active side-drummer (Rick Kvistad) deserved a special medal for sheer exhilaration. ▼



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CONDUCTOR	Donald Runnicles Al	RTISTS Luana DeVol	SEPTEMBER 1	3	8:00 PM
DIRECTOR	Christopher Alden	Jill Grove	17	7	7:30 PM
DESIGNERS	Allen Moyer*	Jeffrey Wells	2	1	2:00 PM
	Gabriel Berry	Jeffrey Lentz	2	6	8:00 PM
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San Francisco Opera debut

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by Dmitri Shostakovich

November 9m, 11, 14, 17, 20, 22

A haunting tale of love unfulfilled, this opera was so controversial it was banned from the composer's homeland for 30 years. Caught between a loveless marriage and a manipulative lover, a young bride is driver to kill, then ultimately betrayed by the man for whom she has sacrificed everything.

This production is made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund. Original production from Staatsoper Stuttgart.

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Guide to Hanifah

Emerging artist at SF Internat'l Arts Fest

by Kevin Davis

f anyone can perform the trick of attracting young, firm asses into proscenium boxes and season subscriptions, it's hip hop artist, playwright and actress Hanifah Walidah, who comes to save American theatre from creaky costume dramas and neu-rotic displays of blue-stocking

Walidah mounts a 19-minute snippet of her one-woman show Black Folks' Guide to Black Folks on September 12, in the SF Interon September 12, in the Sr International Arts Fest's Shorts: An Evening of Emerging Artists program at Yerba Buena's Forum. Walidah demonstrates an ear for African American patois as she inhabits a day in the life of interrelated residents of one neighborhood block.

Her vocal impulse and articulation recall Whoopi Goldberg and the meticulous diction of Anna Deavere Smith, but with improv's emotions and motiva-tion. At Jahva Café in Oakland, Walidah, 31, discussed her career

tion. At Jahva Café in Oakland, Walidah, 31, discussed her career on the boards as a rapper and community witness. "I'm a story-teller," she said. "I claim that."

In the SFIAF's snippet from her larger work, she plays four members of the poker-playing Cheatam clan, differentiating between them through body language, posture, and enunciation. "They possessed me," said Hanifah, Swahili for pure, "with no escaping until the job was done." Fiftyish numbers-runner Uncle Hump Dump, slunk down and sprawling in his chair, expresses lavish affection for his departed best homey, "My Main Man Pete," while offering definitions of manhood. "A man ain't a man unless he live like who he is," he recalls as Pete's last words.

Earnest, pensive Fruit of Islam's teen Brother Kwan delivers Minister Louis Farrakhan's proverbs, mostly variations on the words white man and devil.

proverbs, mostly variations on the words white man and devil, and observes homosexuality's absence from African language. He, too, inquires about male roles, "born righteous in an unright-eous world." Walidah likely pat-

terned Kwan after her father, a Brooklyn mosque's Orthodox Muslim leader, active in prison outreach.

outreach.

Sage, sarcastic, gay social worker Cuzin' Puddin' signifies by raised eyebrows and fluid gestures, and upbraids Kwan, "This is not O magazine," when the word lifestyle is ascribed to him.

Walidah conveys deluded Top Pop, age 300, with a hunched back supken grimage and grave.

Pop, age 300, with a hunched back, sunken grimace and grave-ly voice. Pop recalls Bayard Rustin as "a little funny," and reminds us that his African village named people like Rustin "gatekeepers," for conflict resolution. "The black community is not

big on labels and posters," said Walidah, with a jazz-hands ges-ture at her face. Her one-act might frustrate spectators who must wait until next Spring's Hip Hop Fest to see the complete play.
The Queer Cultural Center
awarded Walidah a Creating

Queer Community grant.
"She's an excellent artist with "She's an excellent artist with fabulous ideas about connecting the wider queer and communities of color," said QCC director Pam Penniston. "She does the work of being a cultural ambassador through the arts."

Walidah motors around her Oakland neighborhood, exalting its comfort, solace and livability. "Ethiopians, Mexicans, working-class folks: the diversity makes it safe," she says from her penthouse with a panoramic view of the Bay and hills. "People treat Oakland like it's Jersey, but Oakland is happening."

happening."
But trends in the Oakland women's scene dampen romantic opportunities for Walidah, who favors warmth and devotion with fuck for the sake of fucking," she said, "but I'm becoming more courageous in my desperation. I'm attracted to feminine women. Oakland has lots, but they don't

Selling 25-cent poems at her Yonkers elementary school, she switched from poet to MC after hearing witty feminist rapper MC

in fourth grade. "A dope girl rhyming, she blew my wig back." In the early '90s, Walidah helped found the hip hop/poetry

helped found the hip hop/poetry fusion collectives Vibe Khameleons and Boom Poetic at "leftover old white beatnik" stages like the Nuyorican Poet's Café and the Knitting Factory. "We had a ball. I feel honored to be in New York when I was, with brilliant geniuses in the Hip Hop scene. It inspired me. There was so much love there, a nest for creativity."

ativity."
In the mid-'90s, she toured with acid jazz trio The Brooklyn Funk Essentials, playing summer European jazz festivals and Lollapalooza '94. "I got my chops, and became sharp through constant performing. I could do backflips, control the crowd. Hearned I had a knack for performing."
Walidah shares the Shorts bill with Melinda Corazon-Foley's stylized-verse family saga, The Coconut Masquerade; Marc Ba-

oconut Masquerade; Marc Ba-



Hanifah Walidah connects queer and communities of color.

muthi Joseph's letters to an un-born son, Word Becomes Flesh; and Jonzi D.'s Lyrical Fearta, a tale of police brutality, guns and cultural displacement. ▼ Shorts: An Evening of Emerging Artists plays Friday, Sept. 12, 8 p.m. (\$20) at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts/Forum, 700 Howard St.

Listening to the world

SF World Music Festival goes global

by Michael McDonagh

ow did Michael Santoro, who heads the San Francisco World Music Festival, get involved in world music? "I have a group called Jumping Buddha Ensemble, and we would take it around and try to get gigs. But a let of the producers in the Bay. Area at the time (this was about 10 years ago) would literally say, 'I didn't even know the Chinese had music,' so there was this wall I music,' so there was this wall I kept hitting." To rectify this situation, Santoro began to produce wide-ranging concerts of world music at Chinatown's Clarion Music Center. And slowly, very slowly, his audiences grew.

This year's festival is a big one, with yenues ranging from the

This year's festival is a big one, with venues ranging from the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts to the new Asian Art Museum. Though the focus is Asian music, including that of India, its centerpiece will be Lebanese composer Marcel Khalife's 45-minute commissioned work, on Sept. 11 at YBC, which involves the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, as well as erfu (Chinese fiddle) maswell as *erhu* (Chinese fiddle) master Zhang Xiao Feng, Chinese percussionist Pu Hai, Lebanese female vocalist Oumayma Al Khalil, and Bay Area women's choir and Bay Area women's choir Kitka. Santoro says he asked Khal-ife to use these specific soloists and groups — "Here are the dif-ferent colors, let's see what you come up with" — and he hopes the piece will inspire classical music groups to think outside the

box. Whether that happens remains to be seen. Still, Khalife will undoubtedly deliver a dynamic, highly expressive work. The composer is also a master of the *oud*, an ancient, highly revered instru-ment in Islamic countries which is the predecessor of our lute. Khalife's thoroughly imaginative Playing permeates his latest Nagam CD, Concerto Al Andalus, whose proceeds will go to hu-manitarian aid for the Palestinian people. He has long championed their rights, and has set poems by



Composer/musician Marcel Khalife is a master of the oud.

the internationally known Pales tinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, who was exiled in the '48 war. Khalife has seen suffering up-

close — he was a student at Beirut's National Conservatory of Music when his country's civil war began in '75 — and this kind of experience, as well as deeply felt joy, powers his work. Add to that the polyrhythms, timbral subtlety, and improvisatory freedom that are the hallmarks of Arabic music, and you have the makings

of a knockout commission.

Santoro hopes Khalife's work, and the festival as a whole, will be and the restival as a whole, will be an artistic statement for world peace. "The thing that's really ironic," he reflects, "is that it takes global conflict and war to teach people about geography and dif-

ferent cultures, and so in a lot of ferent cultures, and so in a lot of ways this situation is helping build an audience for this music. Before 9/11, you didn't have this traumatic awakening. Then all of a sudden, the biggest buildings that are the biggest symbols of our security collapse, and our own people die, so you can't think that way anymore." And, sad to say, that tragic event, which will reverberate for years to come, is a kind of blessing in which will reverberate for years to come, is a kind of blessing in disguise, or, if you will, a wake-up call for the world to really come together:

The 4th Annual SF World Music Fest continues through Sept. 18. (415) 978-2787; www.sfworldmusicfestival.org



Where there's a Will

Now-classic gay sitcom out on DVD

by David Nahmod

Will & Grace, Season One (DVD, \$44.99)

he freshman year of network TV's gayest, most de-lightful sitcom is now available in a deluxe 4-disc box set that the show's legion of fans should cherish.

should cherish.

Some might ask whether or not it's worth spending their hard-earned cash on a show that's readily available on KBHK-TV, Ch. 44, every night in syndication, a show unlikely to leave the airwaves any time soon. The answer is a resounding yes!

First off, not even digital

The answer is a resounding yes!
First off, not even digital
cable offers picture and sound
quality as clear and as sharp as
you can get on a DVD. Secondly,
watching the show on broadcast
TV can be, at times, distracting,
never mind the commercials.
When NBC shows new episodes
of the series, you often spend
half your time trying to ignore
the constant pop-ups.

half your time trying to ignore the constant pop-ups.

City residents can no longer get NBC without cable, so the discs are a boon to them. Finally, it can be most annoying to watch a favored episode on KBHK's reruns. You wait for a cherished scene, only to find that the scene has been cut to the strings can. has been cut so the station can squeeze in even more commer-

cials.

Not the case with the discs.
Each episode is complete, uncut, and without pop-ups or interruptions of any kind. The episodes are shown in sequence, so you can watch the show's sometimes serialized stories and the characters' relationships with each other evolve as they were meant to be seen.

Pilot dreams

Now that Will, Grace, Jack, Karen, and Rosario have become old friends to many of us, it's quite fascinating to see the show's pilot, when Megan Mulally played Karen in her normal lally played Karen in her normal speaking voice, and when she and Jack (Sean Hayes) were not yet friends. The about-to-be-married Grace (Debra Messing) and Will (Eric McCormack) had

married Grace (Debra Messing) and Will (Eric McCormack) had not yet thought of being roommates. We get to see, first-hand, the episode-to-episode development of these friendships.

Disc Two features interviews with the cast; James Burrows, the show's director; and the creators, Max Mutchnick and David Kohan. Kohan, who is straight, and Mutchnick, who is gay, are life-long best friends, now working together. They explain the genesis of the show. Will and Grace were first meant to be supporting players on a Mad About You-type of show they were developing, but the network felt that the gay man and the straight woman were far more interesting than the married couple the never-produced show was supposed to focus on. TV history was born.

The cast interviews are a de-

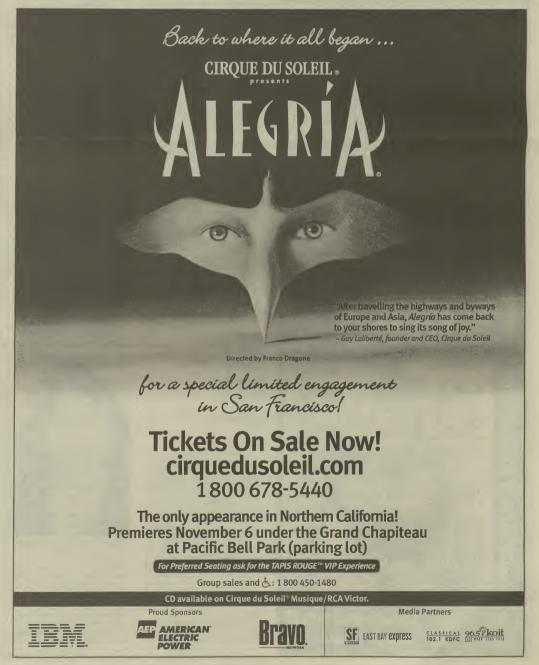
The cast interviews are a delight, though the noticeably absent Shelley Morrison (Rosario) is an unforgivable oversight. The four leads interact with each other like the old, cherished friends they have obviously be-come to each other, and this is a joy to see. Openly bisexual Megan Mullally sets herself up to be a gay folk hero. When asked if

they were ready for the controversy that would no doubt follow in the wake of a show like Will & Grace, Mullally quips: "That was never a concern for me. In my world, it's perfectly normal to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, or whatever. Everyone else may have a problem with it, but I never give it a second thought!" Healthier words were never spoken.

Disc Three features 11 "themed featurettes." Everybody Dance is a collage of shots of the cast dancing from various episodes in the show's five-year history. Let's Get Physical is a collage of pratfalls and stunts. Fashion Quips are quick cuts of the characters making bitchy remarks about each other's outfits. While some of these clips are amusing, they are not nearly as funny as an actual episode of the show. Behind-the-scenes production shots, not included in the set, would have been a better choice.



Just Jack (Sean Hayes), Will (Eric McCormack), Grace (Debra Messing) and Karen (Megan Mullally) of W&G



An unlikely success

The career of Lucille Ball assessed

by Tavo Amador

ight now, an *I Love Lucy* episode is playing somewhere. *Here's Lucy* and *The Lucy Show* reruns are frequent. They, and many movies, make Lucille Ball (1911-89) the most watched performer in history. Stefan Kanfer's recent biography, *Ball of Fire*, details her turbulent personal life. Her professional success was as unlikely as any Hollywood

Born in Jamestown, New York, Born in Jamestown, New York, her father died when she was four. Tall and awkward, she nonetheless wanted to act. In '25, she enrolled in Manhattan's John Murray Anderson Dramatic School, was mesmerized by older classmate Bette Davis, but flunked out. She toured in the chours of Rich Bita. toured in the chorus of *Rio Rita*, and got fired. Modeling for Hattie Carnegie resulted in her unbilled movie debut enjoying

Roman Scandals ('33). For two years, she appeared uncredited in 14 films, and, as a blonde, may be glimpsed in Kid Millions ('34). During filming, she and leading lady Ann Sothern became lifelong friends. She finally got billing at the *Carnival* ('35) for Colum-

at the Carnival ('35) for Columbia, but they dropped her.

Bits in two Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers vehicles, Roberta and Top Hat ('35), resulted in an RKO contract. Billing and dialogue increased for 1 Dream Too Much and Chatterbox ('36). She had lines in the Astaire-Rogers hit Follow the Fleet, then visited The Farmer in the Dell, His Majesty Bunker Bean, befriended That Girl from Paris, and warned, Don't Tell Your Wife ('37). Leila Rogers, Ginger's mother and RKO's acting coach, recommended her for Stage Door, starring Ginger and Katharine Hepburn. A brunette Ball scored as the hopeful thespian who foregoes acting for marriage. She disgoes acting for marriage. She discovered *The Joy of Living*, starred in *Go Chase Yourself*, and supported Rogers while *Having a Wonderful Time*, paired with comedian Red Skelton.

She was a temperamental actress in *The Affairs of Annabel*, ordered *Room Service* with the Marx Brothers, got good reviews thinking about *The Next Time I Marry*, and made *Annabel Takes a Tour* ('38). She offered Beauty for the Asking ('39), had Twelve Crowded Asking ('39), had Twelve Crowded Hours, was Panama Flo, starred in Five Came Back, and insisted, That's Right, You're Wrong. She watched Marines Fly High, proved You Can't Fool Your Wife, then made Dance Girl Dance as Maureen O'Hara's rival, before getting to hilling in the prophysically the top billing in the prophetically-ti-tled *Too Many Girls* ('40). Co-star Ann Miller introduced her to Desi Arnaz, whom she soon married.

A Girl, a Guy, and a Gob, Look Who's Laughing ('41), Valley of the Sun and Seven Days Leave ('42) were poor. Life improved on The Big Street, LB excellent as Henry Big Street, LB excellent as Henry Fonda's beautiful, selfish, disabled girlfriend. MGM signed her. When Sothern withdrew from DuBarry Was a Lady ('43), Ball got it, but the film focused on Skelton's tiresome slapstick. Now a redhead, she looked stunning, which worked gaaging the Butter which worked gaaging the Butter Street. which worked against her Buster Keaton-inspired longing to do physical comedy. She'd perfected delivering sarcastic lines, but hated those parts.

She replaced Lana Turner in Best Foot Forward, appeared with Sothern in As Thousands Cheer, then had to Meet the People ('44). Although her notices were better than her material, MGM grew disenchanted. She stole Without Love ('45) from Tracy and Hepburn looked gorgeous as a whip. burn, looked gorgeous as a whip-wielding chorus girl in the all-star Ziegfeld Follies ('46), eclipsed Es-ther Williams and Van Johnson in Easy to Wed, hid in A Dark Corner at Twentieth, then ended her MGM contract as one of Two

Smart People.
Freelancing, she made Lover
Come Back, Lured ('47) and Her
Husband's Affairs, before teaming
with Bob Hope's Sorrowful Jones
('49), a hit. She handled him with knowing intelligence. She enjoyed

Comedienne Lucille Ball arrives at the 1953 Emmy Awards ceremony

Easy Living, then filmed Miss Easy Living, then filmed Miss Grant Takes Richmond opposite William Holden. At Hope's request, they co-starred in Fancy Pants ('50), a hit, before returning to sa The Fuller Brush Girl and riding The Magic Carpet ('51), which wasn't even a B.

She and Arnaz toured in

Cuban Pete, then pregnancy cost her De Mille's The Greatest Show on Earth. Ball and Arnaz wanted to transfer her radio series, My Fa-vorite Wife, to television as a joint vehicle. CBS balked, doubting audiences would accept an "American girl married to a Cuban," so they starred in a hit vaudeville act, and the network relented. In '51, I Love Lucy debuted, making television history. The Arnazes formed Desilu Productions.

While Lucy was airing, the Arnazes drove The Long, Long Trailer (1954), funny and a smash, followed by the dreary Forever, Darlowed by the dreary Forever, Darling ('56). After ending I Love Lucy while it was still successful, they produced several Lucy-Desi Comedy Hours, further adventures of

the Ricardos and the Mertzes. The best were the first two: Lucy Takes a Cruise to Havana, in which she and Sothern have a brilliant drunk scene in a Cuban jail, and The Celebrity Next Door, with an hilarious Tallulah Bankhead up-

hilarious Tallulah Bankhead up-staging her ('58). Others featured Milton Berle (in drag), Skelton, Fernando Lamas, Maurice Cheva-lier, Fred MacMurray, Betty Grable, and Ernie Kovacs. She divorced the philandering Arnaz in '60, and she and Hope played would-be adulterers learn-ing The Facts of Life, a good com-edy. She was Broadway's Wildcat ('61). a musical that got mixed reedy. She was Broadway's Wildcat ('61), a musical that got mixed reviews but played to packed houses. Exhaustion forced her out, and Rogers replaced her; but without Lucy, the show closed. During its run, she married comedian Gary Morton. Ball bought Arnaz's half of Desilu, which now owned RKO, becoming the first woman to head a major studio. Another to head a major studio. Another outing with Hope, the poor *Critic's Choice* ('63), flopped.

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Leonardo

■ Arts cover

whose character was quite bad — Salai means 'little Satan' — who was a thief and kind of a street kid."

Lap chancing

While all the performers, both male and female, speak Leonardo's words, and the traditional notions of character don't apply here, Zimmerman does suggest Salai on stage. "That's another change from the first production," she said. "It used to be a woman who sort of played young Salai beshe said. "It used to be a woman who sort of played young Salai because she was the smallest and that sort of equaled boy. And then when Salai was older I used a taller, bigger guy. Now I use a guy when he's a boy, and there's a scene where he sits in Leonardo's lap." Zimmerman said it's a scene of seductiveness but not a seduce. of seductiveness but not a seduc

Kyle Hall, handsome and gay, plays Leonardo in this scene, and Zimmerman acknowledged that



Writer/director Mary Zimmerman

she chose Hall at least partly be cause "I know Kyle is comfortable with gay representation."
Hall, 34, is a Zimmerman reg-

ular. A co-founder and former artistic director of Chicago's gay About Face Theatre, he stayed on in New York after the Broadway run of *Metamorphoses*. He was in the New York Notebooks, and wanted to continue when it trav-eled to Berkeley.

"I saw Mary's Odyssey my

reshman year of college, and from then on I knew I needed to work with her," he said. After spending a year in San Francisco working at various bars, looking, he said, to center himself, he en-rolled in grad school at North-western when Zimmerman was teaching there.

Zimmerman's shows are not Zimmerman's shows are not star vehicles, and individual performers seldom take home awards. "But I love that," Hall said of the ensemble nature. "That's my favorite thing, working with people I trust. It's been my experience that doing things that turn me on are the things I do well."

Zimmerman tries to use one or two new people in every pro-

or two new people in every production, but her style requires a core of regulars. "When I make something up for the first time, I do it without a script," she said. "I write between rehearsals, and the presence of the regulars makes it

next page

Spears-carrying & cable-ready

by Victoria A. Brownworth

here is Britney Spears when you need her? Not a question many of us ask, admittedly, but after her frolicsome bi-play with Madonna and Christina Aguilera at the MTV Awards (weren't they cute? M11 Awards (weren't they cute? We loved how some stations paused the footage before the tongue-kissing started) and her, pardon the pun, season opener at the preview of ABC's Monday Night Football last Thursday night (no, we can't explain why the preview of MNF is always on Thursday) where she dropped Thursday) where she dropped her pants in front of the Capitol, we were just holding our collec-tive breath in hopes she might storm the President's earnest little address to the nation Sunday night. You can see it, can't you? Like a Saturday Night Live skit?

Alas, no Britney, all Bush. Talk about lies and the lying liars who about hes and the lying hars who tell them. Speaking of which, we were thrilled the courts threw out the ridiculous lawsuit FOX brought against former SNL scribe Al Franken, and loved that the judge suggested that FOX execs were trying to subvert the First Amendment. Score one for our team

While on vacation, we had oc-casion to immerse ourselves in cable TV, of which we have often cable TV, of which we have often proclaimed our disapproval. (Paying for TV seems obscene; just ask any Brit.) We do not recant, but we did have fun with HBO, A&E and the Discovery Channel. We loved Curb Your Enthusiasm, and we were happy to see Bill Maher again, though he belongs on network where belongs on network, where everyone will be forced to see what balanced talk-TV looks like.

what balanced talk-TV looks like.
Our approbation of cable duly noted, we are now forced to suggest tuning in to some shows premiering on cable this weekend. September 14 is HBO night, kids. Set the VCRs for Carnival and K Street, you won't be disappointed. K Street could easily out-West Wing the original (although some heavy-hitters like lohn Goodman are slated for John Goodman are slated for WW this fall), and the creepy Carnival is going to give Angel a run for its stake this season. But stay tuned for the Oct. 1 premiere of Angel as the sexiest vam-pire on TV, James Marsters' Spike, late (literally, as he was last the Vampire Slayer, is back and badder than ever. With all those badder than ever. With all those bucks, cable could do better. More comedy and more frontal nudity. Our *diktat* to cable: You've got it, flaunt it.

Broadcast news

Leonardo previous page

As we all await the fall season premieres which start this coming Sunday and continue through early October, we're being inundated with all the

possible. New people have no idea what's going on."

what's going on."

Sometimes critics aren't too sure, either. In his review of the recent New York production of Notebooks, New York Times critic Bruce Weber basically declared

Zimmerman a directorial show-

off with little interest in the material. And the production, he wrote, "spends a lot to time cutting [Leonardo] down to size."

news reporting that should have been done *before* the war on Iraq. Now we find out it's going to take years for the nation-building George Bush asserted his Admin-istration would never do. Now we find out it's going to cost \$87 billion this year, and that money isn't being fac-

tored into the budget deficit, currently at a national high of \$500 billion and counting.
Good thing the American economy is rock-solid and we all have good jobs to help Lavender

jobs to help pay for this.

And Gray
Davis is being recalled for what?
Oh right, budget deficit. When does the recall begin on Bush, or would he have to actually have been elected for that to happen?

Yet levity eyes of a political.

been elected for that to happen?
Yet levity, even of a political nature, can still be brought to us via the tube. Our favorite TV moments this week were Arnold getting egged after he weaseled out of the debate (talk about lying liars), and George Lopez quipping at the Latin Grammys, "Latinos will never vote for Arnold, because they won't vote for someone who speaks worse English than they do." George will be back on the ABC sitcom line-up on Fridays, for those, like us, who can't get enough of like us, who can't get enough of

him.
With the world in such chaos and so much of it caused by the current Administration, it seems

current Administration, it seems beyond frivolity to be as concerned about a character on a soap opera as we are, but then that's our job, to keep watch over the lavender aspects of the tube.

Despite fan disapproval, which has been explosive if Soap Talk and Soap Opera Digest are to be believed, it happened this week: Bianca is pregnant by her rapist, Michael Cambias. At presstime she had yet to decide what she would do about the pregnancy, but abortions are very rare on soaps and still quite rare on soaps and still quite taboo. However, All My Children has tackled abortion before, and

may again.

If Bianca weren't a lesbian, we would be supporting this story-line, which has been excellent in revealing the reality of what rape victims endure and how often rapists escape punishment. AMC has devoted nearly its entire show to the story for nearly a month now, with no signs of abatement.

abatement.

The latest plot twists leave us to wonder if Michael has been murdered, and if so, by whom? We saw the DA, Jackson Montgomery, Bianca's uncle, cadge a gun from the police evidence room. We saw Bianca's lover, Lena, with both rat poison and a gun. We saw Bianca's best friend and sister of her last lover, Maggie, borrowing a gun from a gie, borrowing a gun from a

"A friend said that review should be called, 'Take your Tony Award and shove it up your ass.' But I wrote him this very calm letter saying I was hurt and shocked by the review. And he wrote back, and said he was sorry if he hurt me. I work with this literature because I have such obsessive love for it. I worship Leonardo." ▼

The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci will run at Berkeley Rep through Oct. 19. Tickets are \$43-\$55. Call (510) 647-2972. Horr inte own ing : to sta unle

classmate, and Bianca's cousin, Reggie, a former gangsta, with a gun in his waistband. We saw Dr. David Hayward, former lover of Bianca's mother Erica, concoct-ing something. We saw Kendall, Bianca's half-sister (and the child of Erica's rape, another reason we don't think Bianca will

go the abortion route), choosing several murderous alter-natives; even Erica's flaky friend Opal was trying to buy a big payload of blow to

plant on Cambias. Now Michael is MIA. If he's

dead, who killed him?

dead, who killed him?
Our money is on a Murder on the Orient Express plot. We just hope Michael squirms on camera the way we saw Bianca raped in

Tube

the way we saw Bianca raped in luridly graphic detail. We just want to reiterate that Eden Riegel deserves an Emmy for her phenomenal portrayal of Bianca through every moment of

her lesbian-to-rape-victim tenure on AMC. Her work just gets better. We ache watching her on screen, she's that real. We also want her back with Lena. She needs her lover now, as Lena keeps reminding everyone, and we think if Bianca's friends and family were as concerned for her. family were as concerned for her well-being as they claim, they would facilitate that. We did apwould facilitate that. We did approve of the angry words between Jackson and Lena when she demanded he do something to get Michael re-arrested after the judge let him go for lack of evidence. He reminded her that it was her duplicity that brought Michael into Bianca's life in the first place. It was a good scene.

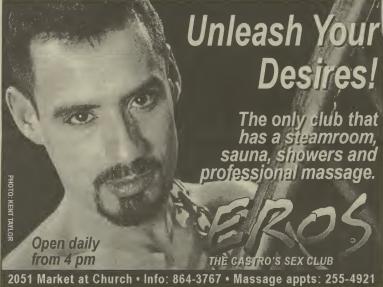
Michael into Bianca's life in the first place. It was a good scene.
But, AMC: Let's keep the lesbian and rape stories contiguous here. Let's not lose the lesbian thread in the throes of the drama of rape and possible murder. It's time for one of those favorite soap traditions, the well-timed miscarriage.

miscarriage.

We can only hope. Stay tuned. ▼









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A story of beauty and beasts

by Robert Julian

Trading Up by Candace Bushnell; Hyperion, \$24.95

ell, shut my mouth and zip my fly. The horrible, stereotyping, male pig that I am simply assumed Sex and the City author Candace Bushnell must be one of those anti-literary Danielle Steele types who grind out trash for the barely literate. But Bushnell's latest novel, Trading Up, forces me to eat those as-But Bushnell's latest novel, Iraaimg Up, forces me to eat those assumptions (a substitute for humble pie) and acknowledge that Bushnell is a crackerjack writer, with sharp observational skills and a knack for charting the zeitgeist of affluent contemporary America.

Janey Wilcox is the heroine of Bushnell's latest romp, a formerly naïve and innocent girl who morphs into a cold, amoral bitch by virtue of her relentless ambition. Janey is a great beauty, a Victoria's Secret model who works her way up the ladder via a series of well-placed blow jobs. Janey wants. But Janey isn't sure *what* she wants. She just knows she wants more and better than she currently has. And since she is a knockout, men become her will-

Janey marries Selden Rose, a

television and film producer who worships the ground she walks on. The marriage gives Janey en-trée to the world of Manhattan high society, which is dominated by Janey's new best friend, Mimi Kilroy, and her billionaire husband, George Paxton. Janey's pro-file in the Hamptons is enhanced by the fact that her sister Patty is married to a famous rock star named Digger. But within a year of becoming Mrs. Selden Rose, Janey goes from famous to infa-mous as her past indiscretions slowly catch up with her

tional job of drawing the reader into the plight of Janey Wilcox by creating, with just the right creating, with just the right amount of detail, Janey's Manhattan milieu. Comparisons to Edith Wharton are inevitable, but Bushmell's prose style is more similar to that of Tom Wolfe. Bushnell has the thinly veiled cynicism of Wolfe, and a similar ability to ex-pose the flaws and double stan-dards that thwart individuals who attempt to break through society's invisible class barriers. But, unlike Wolfe, Bushnell does not write

herself into a corner.

Trading Up is a joy ride from start to finish — one of those books you can't wait to get back to in order to find out what will happen next. The back jacket of this hardcover release contains a photo of the 30something Bushnell leaning up against the bar of some urban watering hole, sporting a two-piece dress with spaghetti straps and a ton of makeup. But beneath her heavily highlighted hair, Bushnell has brains and a prodigious talent. Here's looking at *you*, kid.



Idiot's delight

by Robert Julian

I Will Survive... and You Will, Too! by Tammy Faye Messner; Tarcher/Penguin, \$19.95

t's hard to like Tammy Fave Messner, but even harder to hate her. The addle-brained former talk show host, ex-wife of jailbird/minister Jim Bakker, and cornerstone of the PTL Christian Broadcasting Network is as famous for her eye makeup as she is for her outrageous honesty. Now

she's headed to a theater near you, touring with her one-woman cabaret show, I Will Survive!, while concurrently releasing a new book called I Will Survive... and You Will, Too!

I Will Survive the book is basically the wit and wisdom of sically the wit and wisdom of Tammy Faye, with chapters like "Facing Grief," "Dress Rich on a Budget," and "Fun With Nail Polish." There is also a chapter entitled "The Gay Community," where Messner elaborates on her work with AIDS patients, how she layes the gay community. she loves the gay community, and how they love her. She quotes her gay former talk show co-host, Jim J. Bullock, as saying, "I know Tammy doesn't agree with our lifestyle, but that doesn't agree with the same factors of the same factors agreed the same factors agree with our lifestyle, but that does-n't affect our friendship." It seems Christian tolerance has few limits in Messner's eyes, even though the finer points of her



understanding may not yet be

reconciled.

Messner is no wordsmith. She does not pentameter iambically via a plethora of polysyllabic dependent clauses, employed to illuminate a complex ideology. She is simple. Her thoughts are simple. Her sentences are simple. Her audience will understand. There is a lot of God and Jesus in *I Will Sur-*

forms at the Herbst Theatre Friday, Sept. 12, 2003, 8 p.m., to benefit the Nuclear Policy Re-

search Institute. An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin will be a mix of various characters she has

Out There

◄ page **26**

vive, and a lot of Scripture-quoting. Bible quotes are interspersed with advice on makeup, weight loss, and a variety of topics illustrated by aphorisms like, "When your dreams turn to dust, vacu-

I Will Survive has many funny moments, and Messner comes across as a good-hearted person. She is certainly able to laugh at herself. And her most trenchant observation comes mid-book, when she compares herself to Lucy. But Messner is not like Lu-cille Ball the actress. Tammy Faye cille Ball the actress. Tammy Faye Messner — author, actress, television personality, and Christian — could easily be viewed as a pint-sized Lucy Ricardo assaying the role of a Vitavegavitamin televangelist. Some people aspire to greatness, and others have it forced upon them. Then there is forced upon them. Then there is Tammy Faye. ▼



Free HIV/STD testing 1st Thur, 8:30-10:30pm 2nd Thur, 8-10pm 3rd Fri, 10pm-12:30am 933 Harrison @ 5th



done over the years, with some new material, followed by a Q&A session in which guests will be able to ask Tomlin about her creations. Tickets: call (415) 392-4400 or go to cityboxof-Meanwhile, a new biography is out which traces the private life of immortal comedienne Lucille Ball. In this week's issue, the BAR's chronicler of show-business history Tavo Amador offers a Lucy filmography. Here's an appetizer in the form of an anec-

dote.

In 1951, impresario Cecil B.

De Mille offered Ball a key part in his circus epic, The Greatest Show on Earth [not]. After many years of trying to have a child, however, LB was finally pregnant, so she had to decline. Ball and then hubby Desi Array met with then-hubby **Desi Arnaz** met with De Mille in his office to explain the situation. De Mille listened, the situation. De Mille listened, removed his glasses, and stared at Desi, saying, "Congratulations. You're the first man in history to have f—ed Lucille Ball, Cecil B. De Mille, and Paramount Studios, all in one night." We've cast the operative verb in discreet types and provideration. pography out of consideration for OT readers with refined sensibilities. ▼



□ FRI AND SAT □ 1:00-4:00-7:30 -10:00pm AUDITIONS FOR A LIVE SHOW JOB ARE WELCOME

□ SUN THRU THUR □ 1:00 -4:00-7:30pm

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White-collar worker

by Jim Nawrocki

The Boom Economy: or, Scenes from Clerical Life by Brian Boul-drey; Terrace Books/University of Wisconsin Press, \$24.95

ennis Bacchus, the main character of Brian Bouldrey's new novel, wants to become a priest. When a character with such spiritual ambitions is named after the god of wine and celebration, one can't help but expect the author to take on the conflict between worldliness and spirituality as his main theme. But there's much more to this novel than the story of one man's quest for God, and Bouldrey tells the tale with skill, style, and a refreshing economy.

The story begins and ends in

The story begins and ends in British Columbia in 1999, as three friends — Bacchus, his companion Jimmy, and their mutual friend Isabelle — wind mutual friend Isabelle — wind down their trip through the Pacific Northwest. In the first chapter, Bouldrey introduces the reader to this unlikely trio of friends. In the next chapter, he takes us back to San Francisco in 1991, and in subsequent chapters moves forward in time, from California to France, to Minnesota, and ultimately back to the Northwest of 1999. This creative chronology allows Bouldrey to present a unique portrait of three people who are thrown together by fate but held together by a combination of loyalty, by a combination of loyalty, longing, and fear. His examina-tion of the strange bonds of their friendship forms the true heart



of the novel.

When Dennis and Jimmy meet, in 1991, they are both newly diagnosed as HIV-positive, and participants in a trial for the new anti-HIV protease inhibitor drugs. Both men assume that their lives will be considerably observes and this shift in gently and the shift of the same of of the sa their lives will be considerably shorter, and this shift in perspective seems to structure their friendship and the course of their lives. For his part, Dennis decides to travel and pursue the priesthood. It's clear early on, however, that Dennis is not pursuing the priesthood as much as using it to retreat from the world and his life in it. "I want to dedicate myself to longing's opposite," he tells himself in the moment he makes his decision, yet it is longmakes his decision, yet it is longing that hounds him throughout the rest of the story.

A new leaf

Dennis' resolve for the priesthood is thwarted in strange and

surprising ways, not least of which is the unexpected effec-tiveness of the drugs that he and Jimmy are taking. They find themselves with more life left to live than they had hoped for before, and the challenge of redefining their lives in light of this new reality is more than their friendship can take. Isabelle serves as a kind of foil to both of them — she is not only younger and heterosexual, but also more playful and worldly and demanding than her two older gay

ing than her two older gay friends.

As the book's title suggests, this novel is as much about a particular time and place as it is about its characters. Bouldrey presents an almost satirical take on San Francisco's rise from the ruins of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, and its economic and cultural transformation as a resultural transfor earthquake, and its economic and cultural transformation as a result of the late-1990s "dot-com" boom. At one point, Bouldrey pokes fun at the emergence of cell phones, and his description of Dennis' difficulty at finding a reasonably priced apartment in late-'90s San Francisco will no doubt bring back memories for many

San Francisco will no dudot bring back memories for many San Francisco readers. Bouldrey's prose is crisp and elegant. He has a gift for using small details and seemingly un-likely events to illuminate his stolikely events to illuminate his storyline and his characterizations. He also employs poetry, i.e., the verses that Dennis scribbles in his notebook, to provide a look into the nascent priest's restless psyche. The Boom Economy is a memorable novel from one of the most inventive and talented. the most inventive and talented gay writers at work today. ▼





Lucille Ball

◄ page **32**

In '62, The Lucy Show premiered, a big hit but formulaic; it morphed into Here's Lucy ('68), which ran for several more years. Children Lucie and Desi, Jr. were regulars. Longtime co-star Vivian Vance wanted less work, so Ball relied on guests, frequently Sothern, but also others, like Rogers, Carol Burnett, and Ethel Mer-man. Her perfectionism didn't please everyone: complained Joan Crawford, "And they call *me* a

bitch!" Elizabeth Taylor chris-

bitch!" Elizabeth Taylor christened her "Miss C—."

In movies, she had a cameo offering A Guide for the Married Man ('67), then joined Fonda for Yours, Mine, and Ours ('68), superb in this smash about blended families which showed had the families, which she produced. She sold Desilu to Paramount for \$20 million, refused *Mame* on Broadmillion, refused *Mame* on Broadway, but accepted the film ('74). Decades too old, her reviews were scathing. In '85, she played a homeless woman using a *Stone Pillow*, reveling in bathos, and then, inexplicably, tried another series, *Life With Lucy* ('87). Ghast-

ly, it was quickly canceled. Sothern recalled a heartbroken Ball sobbing, "Annie, I've been fired. They want the Lucy I used to be." She died two years later, but Lucy Ricardo lives on, providing an unmatched legacy of laughter. ▼





Calendare

Fringe beauty

h, the pain! The pain! It's so awfully heartwrenchingly agonizingly ridiculous—and wildly hilarious—to be "secretly" hung up on a sexy co-worker! Especially if you're a nebbish queer PR flack, overworked and understaffed at your agency, confronted with Adonis in the form of a new trainee—who might or might not be queer! Oh how painfully Andy J. (David Bicha) huffs and puffs and squeals in love-sick agony as he gleefully/disastrously wallows in his puppy-dog, hot-flash obsession with new hire Benji (Matthew Vierling), and how innocently/slyly the toothsome Benji laps up the adoration, sweet-talking his boss, professing a friendship that in Andy I's mind just keeps getting closer, and closer...and, wall how close will transit transit.

sweet-talking his boss, professing a friendship that in Andy I's mind just keeps getting closer, and closer ... and, well, how close will it grow?

That's the basic premise of playwright Joe Jennison's queer comedy A Beautiful Man, which opened last Friday at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, where it's playing through September 14 as part of the 12th Annual San Francisco Fringe Festival, organized by EXIT Theater. The play has been in development as part of the JSC/Alchemy Emerging Playwrights program at the Sims Center, and fittingly it was introduced by JSC/Alchemy Artistic Director Alan S. Quismorio, who seemed pleased as punch with the product, and deservedly so.

Given the play's basic sitcom situation, it could have quickly devolved into forgettable mush, the kind of negligible fare you skip over with the remote; fortunately director Jeffrey Harturases takes lengison's expire.

ligible fare you skip over with the remote; fortunately director Jeffrey Hartyraves takes lennison's script and runs with it, keeping the humor engaging and the action at fever pitch, helped by an extraordinary cast of performers, including Sarah Mitchell as Benji's fiancee, who blathers on with fabulous disconnect from reality, orbing and asping over how lovely it is fabulous disconnect from reality, oohing and ashing over how lovely it is her man and Andy J. are such good friends, eagerly making wedding arrangements even as Andy J. is fantasizing about stealing her man away, and resenting her getting between him and his dream come true.

Then there's the wonderful PA Cooley who plays Alex, the co-worker/roommate who openly lusts after Andy J., who just can't be bothered with his attentions, which leaves Alex a bit bitchy, to say the least!

with his attentions, which leaves Alex a bit bitchy, to say the least!
Regular San Francisco theatre-goers may have seen these actors in other standout productions. Most recently Bicha was seen in Lavender Lockerrom, while Vierling was in PINS, Mitchell played in Libidoff, and Cooley's name has become synonymous with "The PA Cooley Show." Playwright Jennison hails from Iowa, has produced seven plays, and serves as Arts & Entertainment Editor for the Cedar Rapids Gazette. Director Hartgraves relocated to the Bay Area in 1995 from Arizona, and will be directing Worse Than Chocolate for the main stage at Threatre Rhinoceros in October.

A Beautiful Man plays Sept. 13 (3pm & 4:30pm) and Sept 14 (6pm) at the Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St. Call 673-3847 or visit www.sffringe.org



'Queer as Foto,' an exhibition by Frank Celaya, Mark Gebhardt, and Tom Mitchell, at A Different Light



'69 Moments of Life'

Ge EXIT on Taylor
AQT Vancouver Theatre & Interactive Male, in conjunction with the San Franciso Pringe Festival, present Terry Costa's 69 Moments of Life, a theatrical exploration of truth, love and freedom filled with dreams and nightmares. A man flat-lines for 69 seconds. A lover long-gone. An Icarus-obsession. The orgy Madona never had. Auntie's Catholic-Selective-Memory. A buffet of storytelling, imagery, music, song, movement and silence for those who crave something different. Universal to queer themes pose tough questions and engage the audience in a theatrical journey of the mind, body and soul. Sa 11:390m Sept. 12; 5:30pm Sept. 13; 2:30pm Sept. 13; 2:30pm Sept. 14. EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St. Utwm. Eddy & Ellis, two blocks from Powell St. BART), infolicie. Gr3-3847; sfringe.org @ EXIT on Taylor

'Sleeping With Straight Men

@ Theatre Rhinoceros @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Extended run: The Rhino in association with Ken Archibald presents Dan Renzi (of MTV's "Real
world") and Sister Roma in
Sleeping With Straight Men, written and directed by Ronnie Larsen
(A Few Gay Men, Making Porn;
Peep Show, etc). An explicit exploration of desire and queer identity in a time of talk shows and
sensationalism. \$20 Wed, \$255

Thu & Sun eves; \$30 Fri & Sat;
\$20 Sun matines. Bpm Wed-Sat;
\$3 & Tym Sun. Extended thru Oct.
4. 2926 16th St. (them Mission &
5.0. Van Ness). Tix/info: 8615079; therhino.org

Advisiona. Govrdon's

■ Advisiona. Govrdon's

Adrianna Gordon's 'Lazy Chicana Story Hour' @ Jon Sims Center

Hour' @ Jon Sims Center
The Jon Sims Center The Jon Sims Center for the Arts
presents Al Rspace artist-in-residence Adrianna Gordon creating
her wonderful one-woman theatrical performance "Lazy Chicana
Story Hour," exploring dating,
race, queer stereotypes, religion,
subculture and more. Guaranteed
to challenge and puzzley ou, make
you blush, and give you sore abs
from laughing, Gordon hails originally from Oxard, California,
made her way through LA's
Teatro Por La Gente, played bad
guitar, and wound up finding fame
here in SF as one-third of SF's hit
queer comedy trupue Latin Hustle.
\$7-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF).
89m. 1519 Mission SL (at 11th
\$1.). Tix/info: 554-0402;
www.jonsimsctr.org

Lily Tomlin @ Herbst Theater

Lily Tomlin

(Perbst Theater

Dr. Helen Caldicott and the Nuclear Policy Research Institute present one of Americas foremost comediennes, the incomparable Lily Tomlin, in a special benefit performance. "An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin," will be a mix of various characters Lily has done over the years, with some new material, followed by a Q&A session in which guests can ask Lily about her wild and mazzing characters. The Nuclear Policy Research Institute (nuclear Policy org) was founded by Nobel Peace Prize Nominee and pediatrician Helen Caldicott, M.D. to facilitate a far-reaching, effective, ongoing public education campaign in the mainstream media about the often-underestimated dangers of nuclear weapons and nuclear power programs. \$65 General Admission (\$35 is tax deductible); \$500 w/ Private Reception with Lily Tomlin & Prime Seating (\$440 tax-deductible). BMM. Tix: 392-4400 (Herbst Box Office), cityboxoffice.com

Triangle Tackwon Do

Triangle Taekwon Do @ Eureka Valley Recreation Center

@ Eureka Valley
Recreation Center
Triangle Taekwon Do hosts a selfdefense seminar led by experienced black-bet linstructors.
Focus on self-defense concepts,
Focus of the defender.
Techniques include basic moves to
evade and defend, as well as elements of hapkido, which uses
pressure points and leverage to
disable the attacker. Triangle was
formed in November 1998 in response to the murder of Matthew
Scheard, in the effort to empower
and protect the local gay community. Free (S5-71) donation opinional and always appreciated), 7:30gym. Eureka Valley Recreational
Center, 18th & Collingwood (one)
block west of Castro Street, next
to Calla Foods), Reservations:
495-1888 or TIRNG-Qeal.com
Info: trianglettd.org.

Steven J. Levin

Steven J. Levin @ John Pence Gallery @ John Pence Gallery
Opening reception: oil paintings Steven J. Levin, who creates
works with a timeless guality.
Classically trained in Minnesota,
Levin emerged from his diligent
art studies to become a pivotal
player in the resurgence of the
American Realist Movement. His
figures have an ease and naturalness that only come to a painter
great talent. His florals and still
lifes are the envy of his peers.
Free. 6-8pm. Exhibit runs thru
Oct. 11. 750 Post St. Info: 4411338; Johnpence.com 'Beam Tom Up for Mayor'

for Mayor'

@ Japanese Cultural & Community Center
Local vocal group Hookslide (Paul Anderson, George Hoffman, Jon Pilat and Mayank Thanawala), SF Public Defender Jelf Adachi, and Star Trek's George Takel unite in "Let's Beam Tom Up For Mayor of SF. Co-hosted by Dale Minami and Brad Bach. Wine tasting; live and silent auction with rare Natural Trek memorabilia. 6-8:30pm.
1240 Sutter St. Info: 665-5417; ammianoformayor.com

David Steinberg @ Mark I. Chester studio

David Steinberg

Mark I. Chester studio
Opening reception: Mark I.
Chester hosts a book release
partylphoto exhibition celebrating
David Steinberg's new book Photo
Sex-Fine Art Sexual Photography
Comes of Age (Down There Press).
The book, with foreword by A.D.
Coleman, highlights the ever-shifting kaleidoscope of sex in 115
duotone photos through the eyes
of 31 different photographers including Michael Rosen, Jan
Saudek, Barbara Nitke, Mark I.
Chester, Paul Dahlquist, Mariette
Pathy Allen, Charles Gatewood,
Phyllis Christopher, and Tee A.
Corinne. Says Coleman: "Many in
this country would prevent you
from seeing these pictures and
buying this book. They would, in
fact, punish all those involved."
Presentation by Steinberg at 9pm;
readings/performances by literary
readings/performances by literary
elebs Patrick Callifa, Kirk Read,
Carol Queen, Suzi Suzuki, Matt
Bernstein Sycamore, Joe Arcangelini and others throughout the
inpla. Park free. Books available
in paperback (\$35) and hard
cover (\$60). 8pm-midnight. Mark
I. Chester studio, 1229 Folsom St.
(SolMa). Info:
mchester-best.wh.net

Mark Morris Dance

Mark Morris Dance Group @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Hall, UC Berkeley
Director/choreographer Mark
Morris and his company present
the world premiere of a piece to
Bela Bardis's String Quartet No.
4, plus Serenade to Lou Harrison's Serenade for Guitar; Grand
Duo to Harrison's Grand Duo for
Violin and Piano; and Going Away
Party to recorded music by Bob
Wills and His Texas Playboys.
\$32, \$46 & \$56. Bpm Sept. 12 &
13; 3pm Sept 14. UC Berkeley
Campus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley. Tix/info: 510642-9988; calperis.berkeley.edu

Fat Chance Belly Dance

@ Magic Theater @ Magic Theater
"Musette Arabe," an evening of
lyrical and elegant dance works
set to traditional Middle Eastern
song and contemporary world fusion pieces, featuring the seven
members of FatchanceBellyDance
(led by Artistic Director Carolena
Nericco) along with Mark and
Ling-Shien Bell of the Middle
Eastern group Heim, and special
guest percussionist Tobias Roberson. \$15 adv; \$20 door. 8pm.
Also Sept. 13 at 2:30 & 8pm.
Fort Mason Center, Landmark



Sandra Bernhard brings her cutting humor to Brava Theater. See Tuesday

Bldg. D, 3rd floor. Tix/info: 431-4322; www.fcbd.com

4322; www.fcbd.com

Huckabay McAllister

Dance @ Cowell Theatre

Huckabay McAllister Dance presents "Tending to Mortal Needs,"
an eclectic program of sensual,
mesmerizing, quirky and humorous modern dances choreographed
by co-founders Emma Lou Huckabay and Jenny McAllister. \$16

adv; \$20 donr. 8pm. Also Sept.
13. Fort Mason Center. Tix/info:
345-7575; hmdance.org

345-7575; hmdance.org

Fab Fridays @ Magnet
Enhance your Friday evening with
a visit to Magnet. DJ Pusspuss ion
hand to spin world, campy
eelectic, cerebral, ambient, uber
drag lounge, facrie anthems,
handbag house & chill tunes.
Complimentary ribblies and board
games. Fun! Free! 7-9pm. 4122
18th St. (next to the parking lot
behind Walgreen's). Info: 5811600; magnetsf.org



'Being on the Outside' @ Jon Sims Center

General of the cutside

Jon Sims Center

Alice Shikina & Three Wise Monkeys Theatre Company present

"Being on the Outside," a collection of monologues by Bay Area
Playwrights, conceived and directed by Alice Shikina. The pieces
offer a journey into the landscape
of the exiled, focusing on people
who feel misunderstood and are
somehow ostracized from society.
Presenting Billy by Alice Shikina;
Holding by Margery Kreitman;
Yellow Hair in a Fishbowd by Carl
Heiling Prognosis by Marilyn Crier
Hughes; in Myron's Defense by
Melinda Folgie, All Numbers Are
Approximate by Tony Pisculli,
Chamel Surfing by Aolies Stratford; Job Interview by Seana
Magee, American Dream by
Melissa Klein; and Lily by Jane
Chen. \$12 & \$15. 8pm Saturday
& Sundays thru Sept. 28. Jon
Sims Center for the Arts, \$1519
Mission St. Tix/Info: 776-7427;

threewiseminkeys.org

'Queer as Foto @ A Different Light @ A Different Light Opening reception: "Queer as Foto," an exhibit celebrating the diversity of The Castro. The images on display range from drag to leather, G.L&T couples, plus eye candy in several flavors. Feating work by Frank Celaya and Mark Gebhardt of the SF Bay Area, and Tom Mitchell of LA, both of whom will be present at the reception. Free. 3pm. Exhibit runs thru Oct. 31. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

'Naked Inquisition' @ Exit Stage Left

SF Hiking Club

SF Hiking Club

@ Pomo Canyon

Join other outdoor lovers for a
Pomo Canyon Hike in the Russian
River Valley. Enjoy the redbood
forest trail which breaks out into
rolling hills with views of the
ocean. It's a moderate 7-mile hike
with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain.
Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores.
Info: 487-6410; sfhiking.com

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans @ Fort Baker

@ Fort Baker
Join Gay and Lesbian Sierrans for an ongoing habitat restoration project at Fort Baker, at the north and of the Golden Gate Bridge.
Meet 9:15am at the parking to between the Parade Grounds and the Children's Discovery Museum.
Work until lunchtime. Work boots a must, dress for dirt, bring layers, rain gear, water and (optional) lunch. Info: 510-531-9345; email csteane@earthlink.net; sfbaysierraclub.org/GLS.

Lavender Seniors of the

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
Lavender Seniors hold their monthly potluck at noon. They also seek volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated se-niors. 12 noon. San Leandro Com munity Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro. Inforirdies from BART: 510-667-9655.

from BART: 510-667-9655.

*Fauxgirls' @ Marlena's
The producers of En Drag proudly
present Fauxgirls, drag cabaret at
its best, showcasing both glamour
and cample. Co-hosted by En Drag
creator Victoria Secret and the
fablulos Alexandria. Featuring
the blazing talents of Mini Minerva, Davida, Daffney Deluxe,
Chanel, Nikis Starr, Anjelica Devarox and guest stars! No cover.
10pm showtime. 48B Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672;
fauxgirls.com



Fischerspooner plays the Fillmore. See Monday.

'Juicy Sexy Cool' @ El Rio

Julicy Sexy Coor

@ El Rio

Help keep queer art visible and funded at "Julicy Sexy Cool," an afternoon and evening of live queer cabaret to benefit the Jon Sims Center's artist-in-residence programs. With federal money being diverted to pay for imperial adventures, many arts organizations in the U.S. face difficult times. Featuring performances by Burlesque Esque, Audrey Howard Band, Daphne Gottlieb, the J. Byrd Hosch Trio, Katastophe, The Drag Kings Galore, and more. Tasty snacks, & Julicy raffle. Help the Jon Sims Center stay vibrant and vital. \$7-\$100 sliding, 3-8pm. 3158 Mission St. (at Cesar Chavez). Tix/info: 554-0402; jon-simsctr.org

Sµn 14

8th Annual 'Doggone Fun Run' @ Golden Gate Park

® Golden Gate Park
Unleash your inner puppy! Pets
Unlimited (a nonprofit veterinary
hospital and shelter) and PAWS
(Pets Are Wonderful Support)
present their famed fundraiser,
the "San Francisco Bith Annual
Doggone Fun Run," featuring a
K9 5K Run/Walk and parry with
music, contests and lots of activities. Prizes provided by Sheep
Dung Estates, Russian River Resort, Carmel Valley Lodge, Washington Street Lodge, Acqual Hotel
and many other fine sponsors.
Music by jazz singer Cathi
Walkhup and the bluegrass trio
Jimbo Trout. If Fild finds a winning bone, you and a guest get to Jimbo Trout. If Flido finds a winning bone, you and a guest get to dine at a fine restaurant! Enter the dog/human and/or cat/human look-alike contests! Enjoy stupid pet tricks! Witness the spectacle of Frisbee Dogs, the SF K9 Corps, and Agility! The Fun Run begins and ends in Lindley Meadow at 30th Ave. and JFK Dr. in Golden Gate Park. To participate, set a goal, ask everyone to support you, collect the money up front, and don't be a fraid to ask! Registration begins at 9am; the K9 5K Run? Walk begins at 10am. Info/registration forms: PAWS office at 1121 Mission St.; Pets Unlimited office at 2948 Fillmore St.; or online at pawssf.org

St.; or online at pawssf.org

*Lit from the Hive'

@ Urban Forage

Urban Forage

Urban Forage presents 'Lit from
the Hive," a new literary series
hosted by Kirk Read, with Alvin
Orloff, Jennifer Privateer, Zak
Szymanski, and Tasha. Urban
Forage is the new raw-foods
restaurant/yoga space in the
Lower Haight, with a cozy loung
space upstairs next to the yoga
space. Fire (performer donations
welcome). 8pm. 254 Fillmore @
Haight, 415-255-6701; urbanforage.com

Mon

The Fillmore
The great white electroclash hope from New York City returns to SF with their signature, art-damaged, heaterial, over-the-top stage show. Last time they performed here, they played their hit single, "Emerge," no less than twice. Let's see If they go for three this time. If it's fun, ironic, choreographed spectacle you're looking for - fronted by a gay, flamboyant "singer" (he lip-syncs most of the show) – then Fischerspooner delivers in spadse! Two shows! Tonlight and Tuesday, Spet. 1.6. Kenna opens. \$20. 8pm. 1805 Geary (at Fillmore). Info. www.thefillmore.com

STOP AIDS Project's

STOP AIDS Project's
'HIV Prevention Awards'
@ Ruby Skye
The STOP AIDS Project and Honorary Co-Chair Alan Cumming
(winner of the Tony Award,
Drama Desk Award and Outer
Critics Circle Award for
"Cabaret," among the Scottish
actor's many stellar credits) present San Francisco's "8th Annual
HIV Prevention Awards," an
evening of honors and classy entertainment in recognition of the
selfless work and tireless commitment to HIV prevention by local
heroes Lenny Broberg, Tracey
Packer, Tony Nguyen, and Dan
Wohlfieller, MJ, MPH. Hosted by
Gregory Wallace of American
Conservatory Theater; featuring



Untitled, 1983, by Phyllis Christopher, part of David Steinberg's Photo Sex-Fine Art Sexual Photography Comes of Age. Celebrate the book's release at the Mark I. Chester

outstanding entertainment by chanteuse Connie Champagne (famed far and wide for her Judy Garland interpretations), Spencer Day (one of the finest jazz/gop crooners around), and the Kent Strand Trio. Plus: Silent auction, light supper, no host bar. ASL interpreted, wheelchair accessible; smoking room. Cocktail attire suggested. Silon-24,500. 6-10pm. Ruby Skye, 420 Mason St. Tix/nio: 575-0120, ext. 260; http://preventionawards.com

Infilmio 379-1319, ett. Zooi, hippreventionawards.com

'Monday Night Gay

Comedy '@ The Center

Comedy presents "Monday Night
Gay Comedy," this week hosted by Betsy Salkind (betsysalkind.com), a regular at NY's Comic Strip and LA's Comedy Store; she has appeared on "Girls Night Out,"

Stand-Up, Stand-Up, "Pet Shop with Andy Kindler," and the "Tonight Show" with Jay Leno. She has written and performed three one-woman shows to date, including most recently "Ann Frank Superstar: The Ethel Spiliotes Story" (a satire of Anne Frankpolitation). Also appearing: Doug Holsclaw, Pippi Lovestocking, Nick Leonard, Dana Cory, Yayne Abeba, Bob "The Crippled Comic" Douglas, and (hooray!) Bridget Schwartz. \$8.51 siding (NOTAFLOF). Reception 7:30 pm; show at 8pm prompt. \$F LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5653; wwww.Qcomedy.com

Tye

Sandra Bernhard

Sandra Bernhard

@ Brava Theater
Mystery Machine Productions presents "An Evening with Sandra
Bernhard," six nights of the loudmouthed, unapologetic, braze,
brash, witty, satirical, divine
comedienne/actress/vocalist Sandra Bernhard doing a masterful
cabaret-esque comedy and song
show. For 25 years, Bernhard has
been challenging audiences with
her knife-edged satire. \$25-\$30.
7:30pm doors, 8:30pm show.
7:289 24th St. Tix/info: 86-6-683399; ticketweb.com; mysterymachineproductions.com

@ Club Rendez-Vous

Literary lioness supreme Michelle Tea (Chelsea Whistle; Valencia) hosts "Big Louise," featuring the illustrious Bambi Lake (of '70s avant-drag troupe Angels of Light



Bambi Lake joins the 'Big Louise' party at Club Rer dez-Vous. See Tuesday.

fame) performing to the magical plano playing of Birdle Bob Watty and the danceable, whiskey-soaked, synthopo-noir sounds of Sir (Jon Nikkl and Malcolm Hamilton). Plus readings by Bay Times rock columnist Don Baird and Alvin Orloff, author of the queer romance/allen invasion novel / Married an Earthing. Proceeds to benefit St. James Infirmary. Doors open 9pm; show at Jopm. 214–w/lb. 1312 Polk St. (at Bush). Info: www.popfilp.com

(at Bush). Info: www.popflip.com

Warped Space @
Logan Galleries, CCAC
Opening reception: CCAC Wattis
Institute for Contemporary Arts
presents "Warped Space," organized by Wattis Institute Director
Ralph Rugoff, offering works that
engage viewers in fluctuating
fields of vision, where physical
boundaries appear malleable and
space itself seems multiplied. 78:30pm. III1 Eighth St. Info:
551-9210; www.ccac-art.edu

Wed

Gay Bingo @ Odd
Fellows Hall, San Jose
The Billy DeFrank Center in San Jose hosts "Gay Bingo," the fun weekly fundraiser. Funds raised will go toward the cost of opening a bigger, better LoBT Community Center in San Jose. Door prizes, cherry bells, snack bar and more. Bring friends! Tell "em Fulffy Butterfinger invited you! Doors open Gym; Bingo begins at 7pm. 10 games for \$10; Game #10 black-out pays \$150. Odd Fellows Hall, 122 Pace \$L, San Jose. Info: gay-bingosanjose@yahoo.com

'Festival iCine Latino!' @ Victoria Theatre

Pestival Tollie Latino:

Wictoria Theatre
Cine Acción presents "Festival
Cine Latino" (Sept 17-21), the
venerable Latino film/video fest
showcashig more than 70 works
directed by U.S. Mexican, Chilean,
Brazillan and Cuban filmakers,
among others. 7 pm show. Northern California Premiere of Vivi
Mata (Living Kills) by Nicolás
Echevarria (Mexico, 2002, 92
min, subtilled). 9 pm show. "Horor Film Program," with Dejávú,
by Jesus Garcia (Spain, 2002, 25
min, subtilled). Shade of Atonement by Roxana C. Lara (U.S.
2002, 12 min. 16mm. b&w); and
Drácula (en Español) by George
Melford (U.S. 1931, 102 min,
B&W, Spanish). \$7 (\$5
senior/students). 2961 Sixteenth
St. Tix/info: 553-8135; cineacclon.com

Christonher O'Riley's

'Christopher O'Riley's Radiohead' @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Radioneau Wezenerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Cal Performances presents acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley demonstrating his uninhibited enthusiasm for alt-rock band Radiohead of DK Computer fame.
Because the band's music is not published, O'Riley created his own transcriptions by listening to everything Radiohead he could get his hands on, including besides and rare live tracks. He began playing the Radiohead songs and concert recital encores as station-break for Public Radio International's "From the Top," the weekly show he hosts for young musiclans. From there his playing's popularity spread like wildfire. \$18, \$24 & \$28. Byn.
Tix/info: 510-642-9988; www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

hu

@ Theatre Rhino Studio Preview; world premiere: Expression Theatre presents The King of Kinds, plus Rain Check, an evening of one-at comedies written by Vicki Kozel and directed by Andrey Esterlis, performed by Bruna Atkinson and Andrey Esterlis, \$15.8:30pm Thu-Sat; 7:30pm Sun. Opening night: Friday, Sept 19, Runs thru Oct, 12. Theatre Rhinocreso, Studio Stage, 2926. 16th St. (btwn Mission & So. Van Ness), Tix/info: 8615079; expressiontheatre.net @ Theatre Rhino Studio

5079; expressiontheatre.net

'Strange Travel Suggestions' @ The Marsh

Jeff Greenwald, best known for
his travel books, including Shoping for Buddhas and The Size of
the World, brings the hand of destiny into his newest work, an improvised monologue, inspired by
the vagaries of wanderlust. \$12\$15 Thu & Sur, \$15-\$22 FT &
\$at. Thru Oct. 4. 1062 Valencia
\$1. Tix/infe: 826-5750.

'Festival iCine Latino!' @ Victoria Theatre

Festival i Cine Latino!"

② Victoria Theatre
Tonight: Ref Passport, directed by
Albert Xavier, shot in bilingual
Spanish/English format, skilffully
capturing the truisms and vibrancy
of NY'S bominican culture. It tells
the story of a former counterfeit
artist who, after serving part of his
prison sentence, wants nothing
more than to rekindle his relationship with his long-lost daughter,
and to live peacefully. 37 (\$5 semore/students). 2961 Sixteenth St.
Tix/Inc. 553-8135; cineaccion.com

Chitresh Das in 'Tarang' @ ODC Theatre

Chitresh Das in 'Tarany

(ODC Theatre

North Indian Kathak dance master Chitresh Das presents a major multi-disciplinary international performance collaboration, Tarang, exploring and expanding the dynamic, rapid-fire cross-rhytms of Indian dance and music, utilizing counts of seven against threes and fives, spinning/dizzying patterns, and more. Featuring Indian musicians Abhitight Banerjee (North Indian tabla master), Sommath Roy (South Indian Chatam and Kanjira master), B. Rajshekhar (South Indian Morsing master), and Snehasish Majumdar (Marster mandolinist), \$18-\$22 (\$35 & \$50 Whenefit reception). Bym Sept. 18-20.
3153 17th St. Tix/Info: 863-9834; odctheater.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon Out & About Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA

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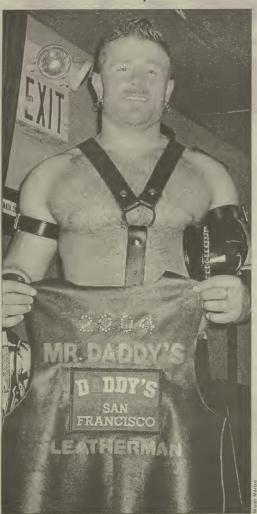






Here come the judges!

Officials lined up for SF Leather 2004



Julian Marshburn was chosen Mr. Daddy's Leatherman 2004 at the contest held there last Thursday, September 4. He advances to compete for Mr. SF Leather 2004 on September 27 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

by Mister Marcus

he Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 Contest committee released the names of the judges for this year's second competition for the title taking place on Saturday, September 27 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. And don't forget, attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite contestant!

The 2004 judges are Sister Lily of the SPI-SF; Mark McKee, the first ever Mr. Alameda County Leather; Donald Dotson, 1st runner-up at IML 2003 (from St. Pener-up at IML 2005 (Irom St. Petersburg, Florida); Richie Chameroy, International Mr. Boot Black 2003; and Brett Brockschmidt, a member of the Mr. SFL 2004 committee and First Officer of the Phoenix Uniform

The judges will face off with five men who have tossed their hats into the ring for the right to bear San Francisco's highest male leather title. The contenders are Damon Holzum (Mr. Powerhouse Damon Holzum (Mr. Powerhouse Leather); Stafford Hemmer of the Men of Discipline-SF Chapter; Keith Folger, Mama's Leather Man 2004; Darryl Jenson, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2004 and .

Julian Marshburn wins at Daddy's

Glenn Tanking stepped aside from the Mr. Daddy's Leather 2003 from the Mr. Daddy's Leather 2003 title last Wednesday, September 3 while an upbeat crowd cheered on three men (Rick LaTulippe, Julian Marshburn and Walter Thompson III) who were vying for the Mr. Daddy's Leather 2004 title. They first had to face judges Glenn Tanking, Dan Alexander, Ms. Evan, Jack Garcia and Richie Chameroy in interviews, speech, leather image, jock and answer

leather image, jock and answer

questions.
It was fun emceeing with Tony
Koester, and Snatch provided
some boffo entertainment and

next page

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, September 11-14

Mr. Las Vegas Leather and Leather boy contests at the Blue Moon Resort. For info click on: scent-cerelyyours/mriv2003.htm.

Friday, September 12

Deadline at 1700 today for FolsomforPlay Art show by theExiles. Email jog entries to mistress-max@verizon.net or mail to Exiles, PO Box 31286, SF, CA 94131-0297 with a SASE. The Eagle Tavern celebrates its 6th anniversary

tonight all night with live music by The Freedom Rockers, plus plenty of food and drink.

Saturday, September 13:

Finding yourself in San Diego? Check out the annual "Butch Revue" show at the Hole Bar, Info:

Sunday, September 14

Dan Alexander and Snatch host the 2nd Annual "Mr. Sweater 2003" contest at Daddy's from 1600 to 2000. \$7 for the beer/soda bust, raffles, Bring a toy and get 10 free raffle tickets. Officer Brenda steps aside. You remember, he was IML 92. Is something wrong with this picture?

Wednesday, September 17

Underwear Buddies flaunt their unmentionables at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules, time Remember, if you've got it, flaunt it. But if you flaunt it, expect to have it trashed!

Thursday, September 18

Mr. Powerhouse Leather Damon Holzum hosts

"Pure Porn" featuring the men of Raging Stallion to benefit Bay Positives. Five porn "actors" will be on hand signing photos, posters, stripping and doing "scenes" onstage. The Powerhouse will be HOT tonight! No fees mentioned at deadline.

Weekend, September 19-21

Spotlight on Kansas City, Missouri as Zack Mar-quandt steps aside from the Mr. Dixie Belle Leather title for a 2003 winner. Also Fat Boy Chuck vacates the Heart of America Leather boy title. Hordes of the "usual suspects" will be there for a great weekend. I'll be there judging so you'll get the results here first!

In Dallas, Texas the 2004 Dallas Leather Sir and boy contests take place with most of the action at the Dallas Eagle. A prelim for Gulf Coast titles

Friday, September 19

Exiles of SF present "Etiquette, Protocol and Ritu-al" as defined by Lady Hilary at the Women's building. Doors 1930, program 2000. \$3 for mem-bers, \$6 for guests. Leather & Uniform night at Renegades in San Jose from 2100 to closing, with a 50/50 raffle. Fetish attire is suggested.

Sunday, September 21

SF Leather Pride Week kicks off today with the raising of the Leather Pride Flag in Harvey Milk Plaza and the annual Leather Walk from Daddy's to SoMa, followed by the 2004 Bare Chest Caleraer men auction at the Eagle Tavern. Busy day for all concerned. Get your pledges in ASAP by clicking on www.leatherwalk2003.com.

Overripe passages

'Manhandled' erotic fiction anthology

by David Lamble

Manhandled: Gripping Tales of Gay Erotic Fiction, edited by Austin Foxxe; Warner Books, \$14.95

his trade-paper volume of 27 cum-stained tales by 21 probably cum-stained authors raised that most pleasant of dilemmas: Do I like my erotic fantasy served with or without literary aspirations? I'm a big fan of Flesh and the Word, the Michael Lowenthal-edited series from Plume, where writers who have had serious fiction published lower or expand their horizons and, using their real names, make a pass at both my head and my groin. Written by and for queer men, Flesh and the Word perversely explored why certain sensations men, riesn and me word perverse-ly explored why certain sensations associated with certain men, with real odors and even deformities, turn us on. But Manhandled's sticky mitts are reaching out to perfect cocks sans conscience or

perfect cocks sans conscience or consciousness.

Manhandled's opening salvo, "BMW Boys" by Douglas, connects a taste for upscale autos with a desire for hetero jism. "Do you think we could use your phone? We're having some car trouble.' I bestiated for a moment. Should I hesitated for a moment. Should I let a complete stranger into my



home? 'Sure. I live right here.' As I was unlocking the door, I realized to my surprise that all four guys were coming in. They were all dressed pretty hetero-casual: baggy jeans, T-shirts, flannels, baseball caps. Very Abercrombie & Fitch." & Fitch.'

& Fitch."

A prime fantasy of mine has me talking to a famous ballplayer in my home. He takes sick at the climax of our videochat — presto, I'm playing nurse, and he's in my bed. Then the earthquake, the big one, and boy, is Bush slow to the rescue. I'm exhausted attending to the needs of my hapless neighbors, and after 30 hours of quake relief, I lie down next to my still-

recovering third baseman. My infielder can be beast or sweetiepie, but he is something very specific, never a generic fuckbuddy. As I nuzzle two days' growth of beard, he barks, "Kiss me, stupid." Manhandled holds out the

he barks, "Kiss me, stupid."

Manhandled holds out the same promise: an all-American man trapped by circumstances beyond his control. In "Sliding Home" by Mac O'Neil, the syntax of desire gets a bit tangled with what feels like Roget's-chosen dirty talk. "Greg pulled out his penis. It was fleshy, heavily veined, and massively wrinkled, with a good four inches of puckered cowl hanging past the helmet-shaped cockhead."

My picks are Cuauhtémoc Q. Kish's "Night Moths in Acapulco" and "Metro Heat." Both may seem overwritten, but you get the authors' intent, to provide a sensual stream of almost purple prose to delay meeting the object of desire. Sights, sounds, and especially smells are cunningly summoned up as Kish's narrator, thankfully without a cheesy porn name, lets us slither along as he prowls a Mexican beachtown's afterhour pleasures. Or we get the sensation of being trapped next to sweaty men on a Gotham subway, hearing silent moans along with the train announcer's barely intelligible mumble, "Watch the closing doors."



Mister Marcus

previous page

presented items she rescued from thrift stores that were stolen from Mama's car trunk the previous weekend!

Mama's car trunk the previous weekend!

Glenn Tanking gave a short but meaningful seven-minute step-aside speech, and names were drawn for an individual to help with the Leather Pride Flagraising ceremony on Sunday, September 21, just before Leather Walk 2003 begins. Vic Germany was the tally mistress, and Biff Wilson was the Judges' Boy.

Daddy's was packed wall-towall and ceiling-to-floor, and Leather Walk tee shirts were on sale. An engraved plaque emblazoned "Reserved for Mama" was presented and will be installed on the bar top at Daddy's to assure the Grande Dame of Leather a bird's-eye seat at all events there.

The moment of truth arrived at about 11:45 p.m. when it was announced that SoMa Bare Chest Calendar man (October 2003) Julian Marshburn would represent Paddy's at the Mr. San Francisco

Calendar man (October 2003) Julian Marshburn would represent Daddy's at the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 contest taking place on Saturday, September 27 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. Whoops and Ramada Plaza Hotel. Whoops and hollers greeted the announcement, and the decision by this set of judges pushes the total number of contestants for the title to five. All were on hand for a group photo opportunity and even as you read this, all are preparing for the competition.

These boots are made for

Don't forget the Dehner Boot Sale taking place at Stompers Boots until Tuesday, September 16 with a 10-percent discount on all items from that world-famous store in Omaha. A rep from the plant was was at Stompers last weekend and lots of people were on hand for the occasion.

For those who want to kick



"Mama" pins Russian River Leather boy Roger Hunt during his recent "Cockring Auction" in Guerneville. The event raised almost \$800 for the Sonoma County AEF. Roger was named "Mama's River Leatherboy."

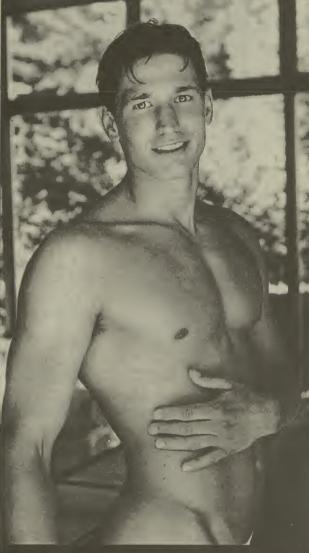
back and give their boots a rest during the Folsom Street Fair, there's will be a new amenity this year, called the "Leather Lounge." For a paltry \$50 you can take a break from the madness on the street and come inside to the "Leather Lounge" where no more than 500 people will be afforded coat and bag check, private bathrooms, cold beverages, light snacks, shade and seating to meet old & new friends. All proceeds go to this year's beneficiaries, of course. You can buy this amenity by clicking on www.folsomstreetby clicking on www.folsomstreet-fair.org/leatherlounge.com, which includes unlimited bottled water and soda, two drink tickets for beer in that Leather Lounge. A

limited number of passes will be available at the door for an additional \$10 fee. Sounds good to me!

Mama gets some lovin'

On Friday night, September 5 at the Russian River Eagle, some \$1,250 was raised and another \$1,250 was raised and another \$1000 donated by Mister S to replace the items stolen from Mama's car two weeks ago. The Coffee Bazaar, Gotham, RR Floral and Gotham Piercing were responsible for the bulk of the total that was augmented by auctioned items. Now we can all rest assured Mama's loss has been reallenished. Mama's loss has been replenished. Any monies in excess of her total losses will be donated to charity.
Good show! ▼





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PARTING **GLANCES**

"Jeff, Where Are You?"
We got together a month ago, partied etc. and I love your thick dick. Please call me so we can get together again. 22 72705

Diamond Heights Safeway 7/29 You-green shirt, blue eyes- chicken potpie, milano cookies, milk for dinner. Me-grey polar-fleece, green eyes, tor-tilla chips, salsa, pepsi as snacks for friends. Now about dining... together? № 72706

I Want You To Be My Baby...
We met outside Badlands on Saturday.
We kissed and fireworks went off in my heart. I didn't believe in love at first sight until I met you. Talk to me stoopid. Angel. 22 72714

Cute Oakland Kosher Guy @ Fair The tension at the dessert competition was caused by your adorable self- I came in 2nd @ the fair, though I'd like to come in 1st with you! @ 72782

Fife's Resort Aug 15, 16. Fr/Sa We smiled and looked at each other a lot poolside. You wore long blue jams; me, 15-20 yrs older, short brn hair. We talked about the puppy. I want to know you! 22 72795

Love The Lip Ring, Tatoos.
Sunday afternoon at the #5 stop. You, a vision in a powder blue muscle shirt.
Me, a sight with books and a cane.
You made my day. Can we talk?

72796

Big Masc. Sam, & Fine Muscle Steve...
I'm your "Gardner". I think you both
are so fucking sizzling Hot! It would be
nice to one day take a break and hang
out in the hot tub ... Naked!!! Is it possible! Signed Gardner, in Hilly Oaktown USA 12 72806

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Mulatto Guy Sexy Light-Skinned Real good looking, educated, intelli-gent. Looking for someone for a rela-tionship, fun, sex, etc.. 22 72707

WM 48, 6, 165lbs, Dark Hair ISO M over 55 who enjoy deep kissing, affection, oral pleasures. Husky/heavy-set, bearded, rustic-looking, liberal views, loners a plus. Smoking ok but no drugs or gay scene. 22 72708

"Seeking Romance"
GJM 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking
drinking, hanging out buddy. Like
films, stage, food, baesball, drinking,
etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks
unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. 2

Where've All The Cowboys Gone! GWM 39/6/150lbs. (Healthy HIV+) ISO slender GM for Itr. Must be honest true, and need a lot of love. Cause I have a lot to give to the right guy! \$2 72716

Good Looking GWM 36 GWM CMT looking for Latino or Asian for Itr. I am HIV- disease free. I enjoy movies, the beach dancing, holding hands, let's talk. 22 72717

"Males"
Latinos, Asians, Middle Eastern, mixed race a plus, 18-30, HIV-, good teeth, silm or muscle bound, nice swollen nipples, nice round butt. GBM, 52, 208, ch 50" HIV-, goodlooking. 22 72718

"Models"
I design mens under garments, need someone who can understand my work. Do you have the body and mind I need? 18-30, Latino, Asians, mixed race, muscle bound. 12 72719

Brown Sugar Latin Guy 36 Yrs.
Nice Latin boy 36 yrs old 5'8", 155
masculine nice slim muscular body.
Versatile. You-Latin or White versatile size unimportant. Under 160lbs.
No drugs. For relationship call.

272720

"Light Skinned"
Young attractive or goodlooking 1830 Latino's, Blacks, Asians, and
Whites mixed race. HIV-, clean hygiene, good teeth, no clowns. Slim or
muscular, swollen nipples, round butt,
no fats. 12 72783

White Man Wanted For Lover
White man 50 5'11", 197lbs seeking
White man 40-60 for relationship love
to cuddle and kiss. 22 72784

'18 To 25"

"18 fo 25"
Latinos, Asians, light skinned Blacks, mixed race, HIV-, clean hygiene, roum butt, swollen nipples is a plus, sale sex good teeth, smooth body, good sucker, kisser, muscle bound or slim.
22
72785

"9 1/2" To 10" And 7 1/2R."
GBM, 52, 5'10", 208, 50"ch., HIV-,
brn eyes long black hair, aggressive.
You: 18-30 slim or muscled, any race,
Latinos, HIV-, clean hygiene, round
butt, and big swollen nipples.

22
72786

"ISO You!"
GHM 42 masculine, attractive, enjoys working out movies, outdoor activities seeks GM 35-55 who shares the same interest... Antioch. 22 72797

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GWM, top, ISO White or Latino bottom for dating and possible ltr. Me: 51, 6'3",175 hairy chest. You: 35-50 height & weight proportionate, Oakland. 22 72807

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Solid, well hung, Silver Fox wants
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72808

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Hot, masculine submissive bottom with nice round ass, tight virgin hole, deep throat, young 46, 5'11", 165, shaved head, goatee, runner, needs discipline, "Sir". @ 72711

"Adventure"
GJM into heavy, intense j/o, d/t, c/b worship, oral, drinking/partying, your place. PM only. Age, size, race, looks should be unimportant to both of us. \$\pi\$ 72774

• Shut-Up And Ride • WM 38, 5'10", 190lb. blond/blue muscular top wants good looking men and/or women to screw call anytime.

☑ 72775

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SWM 63yrs. 175lbs Seeking, SWM 50-65, must be clean & discreet MWM ok. № 72778

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Hot buzzeut 35 y/o Pacific Islander
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39yo, HIV+ GWM 6'1", 175, brn, hzl
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roles, fantasies, j/o. Fun/friendship.

22
72800

Santa Rosa Native GWM, 42, 5'10", 170lbs. Ex-navy, mobile home owner. Enjoys chess, ten-nis, drumming and outdoors. Seeks re-lationship. ☑ 72801

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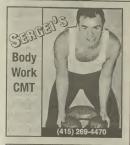
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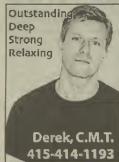
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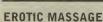
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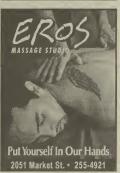
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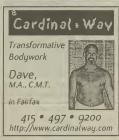
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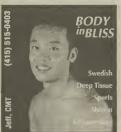
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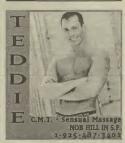
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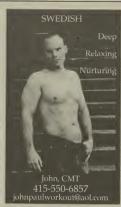
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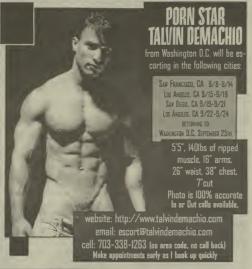
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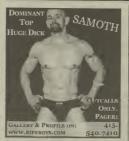
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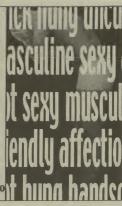
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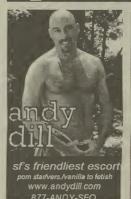


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THE MAN WHO GOT AWAY

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We had a pre-arranged date last October in Hawaii. I was there and he
saw me and waved but I didn't wave
back. It was on the beach. I forgot
about the date, I have PTSD, but subconsciously must have remembered.
He has black hair and is about 5'10".
I would love to hear from him. Please
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David Bear 47 Clinton St. #2B Lambertville, New Jersey 08530

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